



*Hinson's Cross Roads  
Baptist Church*

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1897-1997

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# Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church

c.a. 1897-1997

Compiled January 1997

History-Centennial Committee

Graham Ellis

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# Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church

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## Community Settlers

According to Recollections and Records, a book published by the Columbus County Commissioners in 1980, Spaniards were probably the first white men to settle in Columbus County and Fair Bluff township, of which Hinson's Cross Roads is a part. It is known that Lucas Vaquez de Alyllon brought five hundred settlers from Hispaniola to the Cape Fear region in 1526.

Researchers for Recollections and Records found tangible evidence of Indian occupation in Fair Bluff township.

John Lennon, Joshua Stevens, Joseph Oats, Barnabas Stephens, Nicholas Worley, and Moses Coleman are some of the early settlers of Columbus County and surrounding areas.

Well known families in and near Hinson's Cross Roads after the Civil War were Alexander Meares, Francis Floyd, the Wades, the Hammonds, Daniel Meares, Samuel Gowan, the Faulks, the Conners, the Nobles, and the Sealeys.

Thomas Amis owned much of the land in Hinson's Cross Roads before the Revolutionary War. Later the Colemans bought the land.

John Q. Hammond, Alfred Meares and Francis Floyd (who married Vivian Coleman, daughter of Amos Coleman) settled here before 1850. Augustus Hinson and Enode Wade settled in Hinson's Cross Roads about the time of the Civil War.

Theophilus Floyd owned one thousand acres of land on what is now known as the Causey Road, near the North Carolina-South Carolina state line. He sold the land for ten cents an acre, and moved his family to Alabama.

His son, Francis, apparently did not like Alabama, or perhaps a girl friend, maybe Vivian Coleman, was back in North Carolina; so he saddled up his horse and came back. He brought land in Hinson's Cross Roads in 1846.

This Francis Floyd is Brooks Floyd's grandfather. It is

told that he made twenty-four trips to Alabama on horseback. On one of those trips he had to trade horses seven times.

Charles W. Shelley and Martha Rebecca Shelley moved from Marion County, South Carolina to what was known as the old Tyler place near Spring Branch. Martha heard that the house in which they lived was haunted, so they bought some land from Henry Coleman and moved to Hinson's Cross Roads.

Brooks Floyd tells a story he heard as a boy. An earthquake came one night in 1886. Everyone was scared to death. (It was soon after this the Shelley's moved to Hinson's Cross Roads.) The night after the earthquake, people still scared, gathered to have a prayer meeting, begging to be spared from another quake. An old black man in the group prayed, "Lord, if you're going to take them, take them now. They're the best they are ever gonna be."

Martha's maiden name was Brown. Her brother, Tom Brown, was Robert Hammond's grandfather.

Mr. Charles Shelley was born April 10, 1846 and died May 30, 1916. His father was Thomas Shelley and his mother Mary Lambert. They lived near Mullins, S.C.

Mrs. Martha Rebecca Shelley was born June 31, 1853 to Stephen and Bettsie Brown. She died October 26, 1929.

Another family of early Hinson's Cross Roads settlers were Mr. Page and Mrs. Vance Floyd. Mr. Page was born in 1864 to Francis and Adaline Bullard Floyd. Mrs. Vance was born April 5, 1893 and died July 24, 1946. Her father was Samuel W. Gowan, and her mother, Sarah Faulk Gowan.

## The School

A school was built at Hinson's Cross Roads before 1900 and remained here until 1932, when it was consolidated with Fair Bluff school.



Many remember that old school house. Ms. Evelyn Floyd remembers teaching at Hinson's Cross Roads and treasures the memories of those days and the students. She has pictures made while she was teaching here, pictures of some of the students and of her first car. Ms. Georgia, her sister, taught here also.

Ms. Nettie Barnes remembers teaching, as well as being a student at Hinson's Cross Roads. Ms. Nettie earned her education for teaching from a Mr. Wooten in Whiteville.

Rev. Jasper Hinson remembers the school principal, Mr. A. C. Chapin, who was also a preacher.

Ms. Mollie Hammond Whitehead recalls going to school where the church building is now. She remembers that the school house had a partition that could be moved to make a larger space for commencement exercises. She happily recalls how grown-up she felt when she passed her grade and could move to the "higher" room.

One of Mollie's most pleasant thoughts of school was Victoria Meares (now Hinson) going home to eat her lunch and bringing back sweet potatoes which she would share. Mollie remembers being taught by Ms. Evelyn Floyd and also Dempsey Coleman breaking his leg while playing baseball.

Ms. Mildred Ellis Jenkins recalls watching Brooks Floyd play baseball where the fellowship building now stands. She remembers that Brooks was a very good player.

Mr. Dempsey Coleman remembers the old school house, too; and that Ms. Evelyn Floyd was his teacher. He recalls the cloak rooms, playing baseballs, and yes, breaking his leg during one of the those games.

Mr. Brooks Floyd remembers Principal Chapin at Hinson's Cross Roads School. He said Mr. Chapin was a tough teacher who meant what he said.

Ms. Lizzie Shelley Hinson remembers going to school at Hinson's Cross Roads, and how badly she hated to leave there and go to Fair Bluff School.

Ms. Rosa Meares Morris remembers Hinson's Cross Roads School in the late 1920's and early 1930's. Rosa says:

“There was a three room school house where Hinson's Cross Roads Church stands today. There were only three teachers at a time. Those I remember are Ms. Nettie Barnes. Ms. Vennie Harrellson, Ms. Evelyn and Ms. Georgia Floyd, Mr. Jasper Hinson, and Ms. Eva Waddell.

“We walked to school and if we didn't live too far away, we would go home for lunch. Most of the students took their lunch.

“Later the school house was torn down and our school consolidated with Fair Bluff. What a joy it was to ride in a school bus.”

## Where We Buried Our Dead

Many of our ancestors are buried in Meares Community Cemetery<sup>1</sup>. They name of many of the early leaders can be found engraved on tombstones there. Page Floyd and G. J. Hammond, two of the first church trustees are buried there, as are their wives. The other trustees, J. Q. Hammond is buried in the Hammond Cemetery.

W. S. (Sel) Ellis and wife, Carrie, are buried in Meares Community Cemetery, as is J. J. Hammond and his wife Esther. Clyde Hinson and wife, Othello, who gave the land on which the pastorium is built, are buried there.

Mary Martin, who gave the bell for the church, died

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<sup>1</sup> Location on Hinson's Crossroads north of the church.

August 4, 1924 and was buried in Meares Cemetery. Also Asa Lee Meares and wife, Caldonie, are buried there; he in 1921, and she in 1957.

Charles W. Shelley, buried in Meares Cemetery, died in 1916 and his wife, Martha, in 1929. His son, A. F. Shelley was buried there in 1953 and his wife, Dollie, was buried in 1956. Another son and treasurer of the church for many years, L. T. Shelley was buried there in 1947. Haynes Hilbourn, a deacon, and his wife, Mary, was buried in Meares Cemetery.

James Clauson Edmond, a deacon and church leader, was buried in Edmond Cemetery, as was his wife, Lounetta. Luther and Ruth Edmond, who bought the first church building, are buried in Edmond Cemetery.

Francis Floyd, charter member of Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church and his wife, Adiline, his son Francis and his wife, Mary Shelley are buried in the Floyd Cemetery. Curtis Fairfax, a deacon in the early years, and his wife, Ruth are buried in Floyd Cemetery.

Charlie Floyd, one of the early deacons and his wife, Charity, who is remembered as a Sunday School teacher, are buried in Powell Cemetery. French Nobles, a deacon and leader of the church, and his wife, Eula, are buried in Powell Cemetery also.

Jessie Hammond, a deacon and remembered for his work with the church music, is buried in the Hammond Cemetery. C. M. (Mike) Hammond, who was church clerk for many years, is also buried in the Hammond Cemetery.

Other cemeteries where our member are buried are Haynes-Sealey Cemetery on the Coleman Cemetery Road, Strickland Cemetery on Swamp Fox Road, a small Meares Cemetery off Rough and Ready, the Wade Cemetery beside Meares and the Coleman Cemetery on Hinson's Crossroads Road south of the church.

## Resolutions and Rules

In the early years of Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church, resolutions and rules were written. We cannot determine when they were written. The following information was copied from one of the old books:

- “1. Any male member who misses three church conference in succession without excuse will be charged.
2. List of female members will be called each September and the list revised.
3. The first offense of any member; if that member reports same himself, will not be noted, but second and all other crimes against that member will be noted.
4. Will not allow any member to sell or give to any other member any kind of wines or spirituous liquors.
5. If any member is kept away from conferences by sickness or by call of the law, he will be excused.
6. Conference will be held quarterly.
7. A collection will be taken at each monthly Sunday morning meeting.
8. Any male member who is able bodied who refuses to pay to the church shall be disciplined.
9. All members agree and covenant with each other that they will not drink, sell, make or give any kind of strong drink wines or cider.”

In another of the older books this (similar to but a little more than the preceding) was written:

Resolutions adopted by Hinson's X Roads

## Baptist Church

Resolution #1: That if any male member shall absent himself from the conference three times in succession without excuse shall be guilty of a charge for absence.

Resolution #2: The list of female members shall be called at each September meeting of each and list revised.

Resolution #3: The first offense of any member who shall report same himself shall not be noted, but ever afterward all crimes shall be noted against said member, unless such member be excluded.

Resolution #4: That we will not allow any of our members to sell or give to any of our members any kind of wines or spirituous liquor.

Resolution #5: That if any member is kept away from the conference by sickness or by the call of the law, shall not be noted for absence.

Resolution #6: That we commune quarterly.

Resolution #7: That collection be taken at each monthly meeting on Sunday morning for the cause for which Union is laboring.

Resolution #8: That every able bodied male member of this church who refuses to pay for support of the pastor or for missions shall be disciplined by the church.

Resolution #9: Resolves that we the church at Hinson's X Roads unanimously agree and covenant with each other that we will not drink, sell, make, or give away any kind of strong drink, wines, cider, and all kinds of strong drink, We finally agree to such.

Done by Conference, Saturday before the Second Sunday, June 1896."

This had to be written from Memory since all records were destroyed by a tornado in 1917.

Our earliest preserved record is a conference on August 18, 1917. The oldest preserved annual church letter is dated October 20, 1917.

Following the adopted resolution was written Rules of Decorum. They are:

Article 1: The moderator shall be chosen at the suffrage of the church, whose duty it shall be to open the conference by prayer or cause it to be done by some brother present.

Article 2: The names of the male members shall be called and the absentees noted by the clerk and make a report at the next conference, if required.

Article 3: That absentee be called on to make their excuse.

Article 4: The items of the last conference shall next be called for and shall be disposed of as the conference may think best.

Article 5: Only one person shall speak at the same time; who shall rise from his seat and address the moderator, when he is about to make his speech.

Article 6: The brother speaking shall not be interrupted in his speech, except by the moderator, until he is done speaking.

Article 7: He shall adhere to the subject and in no wise reflect on the person who spoke before him so as to make remarks on his slips, failings or imperfections, but shall fairly state the case and matter as nearly as he can so as to convey his light and idea.

Article 8: No person shall abruptly break off or absent himself from the conference without



consent of the conference.

Article 9: No member of the conference shall have the liberty of laughing during the setting of same, nor whispering in the time of a public speech.

Article 10: No person shall rise and speak more than three times on any subject without liberty from the conference.

Article 11: No member of the conference shall address another in any other terms or appellation but the title "Bro."

Article 12: The moderator shall not interrupt any member nor prohibit him from speaking until he gives his light on the subject except he breaks the rules of decorum.

Article 13: The moderator shall be the last to speak on a subject who may give his opinion if he pleases before he puts the matter to a vote; but shall cast no vote himself unless the conference be equally divided. Then he may cast the deciding vote.

Article 14: The state of the church shall be inquired into by the moderator.

Article 15: A door of experience shall be opened by the moderator for the reception of members.

Article 16: Any member who willingly and knowingly breaks any of these rules shall be reprimanded by the moderator as he may think proper.

Article 17: Conference shall adjourn by praise to Almighty God.

Some of our members today look back on these strict rules and feel that they were not in the best interest of the

people or the Church of Hinson's Cross Roads. We read of many men who were active in the church but were turned out and never returned.

It is strange that no mention was made in these rules as to the importance of attending the Sunday preaching service following the Saturday afternoon conference.

Some of the earliest records of those rules being acted upon is in March of 1918 when one brother was brought before the church for being drunk. He asked forgiveness and was excused. At the same conference a committee was appointed to investigate such accusations. G. J. Hammond, W. H. Martin, A. L. Meares, W. B. Jenkins, Jessie Hammond, L. C. Barnes and J. N. Small were appointed.

In May of 1918 a member we accused of fornication. This was left in the hands of the investigating Committee. In the June conference, the lady was excluded.

Such things as profanity, disorderly conduct and drunkenness were brought up often against men. In some cases, the accused would admit his guilt and ask forgiveness and the church would excuse the offense. Sometimes, not often, a woman would be accused of fornication or bastardy. They were always excluded. No mention was ever made of their partners in the crime.

On December 13, 1919, one male member, who had been accused of disorderly conduct and profanity, asked that the church withdraw fellowship from him, which it did. He never rejoined the church.

There were times when there would be confusion among two or more men and the church would appoint others to help settle the argument. It seemed that this worked because in a later conference, the problem would have been solved.

Many times members would be accused of missing three conference. Sometimes their excuses would be accepted other times they would be turned out of the church.

Rev. Jasper Hinson was greatly opposed to some of



these rules. He was not in favor of dismissing one from membership because he had missed three conference. He said sometimes when someone asked for their letter to be moved to another church, the church would not grant the letter because of missed conference or for failing to contribute to the church financially.

Others did not agree that failing to attend conferences should cause one to lose his church membership. In April 1932, this rule was questioned and although not abolished, it was changed a little making it take four absences to cause exclusion. In December of 1932, the rule was turned over to a committee, but it took until July 6, 1935 to get the rule dropped. In 1940, someone tried to revive the rule, but was unsuccessful.

At the present time, Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church has no constitution or by laws. A committee was elected December 27, 1987 to write a new constitution and worked on it for fifteen months. The committee is composed of Cornie Shelley, chairman, Graham Ellis, O. C. Jenkins, Jr. Susie Strickland and Ruth Reel. Rev. Lewis Howard worked with the committee while he was pastor. As of this date, the work has not been completed.

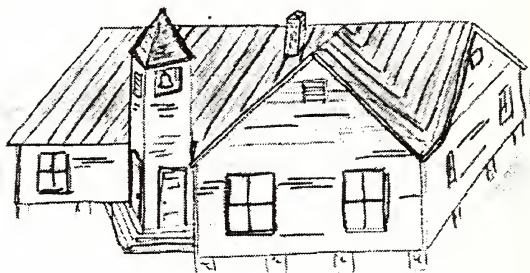
For many years all business meeting are called conference and are held during Sunday morning worship service.

## The Church Ground and Building

The first land recorded as belonging to our church was given on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 1899. It was given by C. W. Shelley and wife, Martha Shelley. At that time the name of the church was Mount Herman Baptist Church and it was located at Hinson's Crossroads. The deed recorded the church as having paid one dollar for the land. The signing of the deed

was witnessed by E. D. Meares, Justice of the Peace.

On this piece of property, a straight building was built, large enough to accommodate two rows of pews, one row for men and one for women and children. In later years, Sunday School rooms were built making the building "L" shaped. A steeple was also added.



Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church  
after the addition of Sunday school rooms.

-- sketched by Frank Strickland --

On March 14, 1917, Ms Rosa Meares Stencil sold land that she had brought from Alfred Meares on March 6, 1869, to J. F. Rogers, stipulating that one-half acre was the property of Meares Graveyard. Some time before 1943, this land had been acquired by A. M. Anderson and wife, Bertha W. Anderson. It was sold by them on October 25, 1943 to Waldo Hinson and his wife, Lizzie Hinson, and Dempsey Hinson and his wife, Victoria Hinson. At this time three-fourth of an acre was reserved for Meares Graveyard.

Not until 1977 did the Meares Graveyard, now known as Meares Community Cemetery, belong to the church. But on August 27, 1977, a deed to the cemetery was granted to Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church, as long as it is governed by a rotating body.

In 1988 Lizzie and Ronnie Hinson donated land for a

road around the cemetery. And in 1996, they donated .55 of an acre of the adjoining land to enlarge the cemetery.

On April 10, 1945, Arthur Shelley and wife, Dollie Shelley, gave one-half acre more or less to Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church. Upon that land a new church building was completed that year. On October 14, 1958, the other part of this plot of land was given to the church by Waldo and Lizzie Hinson. The educational building, which joins the sanctuary, was built on this land.

One October 27, 1967, Clyde Hinson and wife, Othello S. Hinson, gave land on which Hinson's Cross Roads parsonage is built.

On May 21, 1986, the church purchased from Mamie C. Hinson, Dorothy Faye Hinson Brown and husband, Bobby Rex Brown, and Harold D. Hinson and wife, Bonita Graham Hinson, 1.38 acres of land located across Rough and Ready Road from the church. Upon this land the Hinson's Cross Roads Fellowship building was completed in 1992.

## Church Organization

We had been led to believe that Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church was organized in 1894. In fact, this is stated on the cornerstone on the present church building.

The History-Centennial committee began working in July 1994, not too many months before we thought we would be celebrating our Centennial.

In the course of the work, we wrote to the North Carolina Baptist Historical Archives at Wake Forest University. The information we received from there mentioned a new church organized in 1897 name Mount Herman, which later became Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church. This information had come from the "The North Carolina Baptist," a paper from Fayetteville, N.C., dated

December 8, 1897.

We decided that this could not be our church. Since we have never heard of Mount Herman, we concluded that this was a church in another part of the state, and just laid the information aside.

Next we went to the Columbus County Court House to search for the deed for the land on which the first church building was built. A deed to Hinson's Cross Roads Church in the late 1800's could not be found. We knew that Charles Shelley had given the land, so we searched using that route.

We found that Charles W. Shelley and wife Martha had given the land - deeded to G. J. Hammond, J. Q. Hammond and Page Floyd; trustees of Mount Hermon Baptist Church located at Hinson's Cross Roads on February 23, 1899.

This caused us to rethink the information from the Baptist Archives and wonder.

Also, we began seeking information from neighboring churches. Porter Swamp Baptist Church has very good, well kept records from those long ago years. From them, we learned that the people known to be some of our charter members moved their membership from Porter Swamp Church in September and October of 1897 to Mt Hermon Baptist Church

In September of 1897, the following people moved their membership from Porter Swamp to Mt. Herman:

Mr. J. J. Hammond  
Mr. Javan Hammond  
Mr. C. H. Hilbourn  
Mr. W. G. Hammond  
Mr. A. L. Meares  
Mr. W. M. Hammond  
Mr. A. M. Hammond  
Mr. J. Q. Hammond, his wife and daughter  
Miss Ellen Hammond

Miss Addie Meares  
Miss Maggie Shelley  
Mrs. Martha Shelley  
Miss Lula Hammond, sister of A. M. Hammond

Mr. Charles W. Shelley was moderator of the conference at Porter Swamp in September 1897, when these folk were granted letter of dismissal to join Mt. Herman Church. And in October of 1987, Miss Jane Hinson and Mr. C. W. Shelley moved their membership from Porter Swamp to Mt. Herman.

Although there is no record to which month, in 1898, Miss Frances Hammond, Miss Mary Meares, and Miss Julia Scott, also moved their membership from Porter Swamp Baptist Church to Mt. Herman.

All this startling information merited a telephone call to John Woodard at North Carolina Baptist Historical Collection at Wake Forest University and he read to us from his records that definitely our church was organized, November 7, 1897.

The book referred to earlier, Recollections and Records, states that some of our charter members came from Fair Bluff Baptist Church, among whom were Dollie Wade, Mitee Wade, Malinda Floyd, J. E. Hinson and Enode Wade.

One record from the North Carolina Baptist Historical Archives, stated that Rev. Moses Pridgen, Rev. W. W. Willis and deacons from Spring Branch Baptist Church organized Mt. Herman. This record also stated that there was no house of worship at that time and school building was used two years while a house of worship was being built.

The record also states that the name of the church was changed from Mt Herman to Hinson's Cross Roads and it was admitted to the Cape Fear Columbus Association in 1903.

The clerk from Spring Branch Baptist Church has searched their records and found only a reference to their making a donation to a mission during the year of 1897. That



mission could possibly have been our church.

We can only wonder what happened in those early years since our first records were blown away in a tornado and no one is now living who can remember. The dates differ on some of the records we have found. We tend to believe that the records of the deed must be correct. The minutes from Porter Swamp Baptist Church certainly agree with this considering the statement from the Baptist Historical Record that states it was two years after organization before a house of worship was built.

Churches back in the 1800's had worship service once a month. Conference would be held on Saturday afternoon and preaching on Sunday. There was no Sunday School in those days.

Could it be that the people here at Hinson's Cross Roads wanted to worship more than once a month and would meet another week-end and worship, maybe beginning as early as 1894, maybe meeting in homes as the Christians in New Testament times?

Recollections and Records states that Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church was organized in 1896. Could it be that by this time these people were really getting serious about having their own church and not having to walk or ride in buggies or wagons all the way to Porter Swamp or Fair Bluff; and began discussing organizing their own church.

When Mollie Hammond Whitehead was a little girl, her dad, Mr. J. J. Hammond, told her to get a pencil and paper; that he wanted her to write down events that happened when Hinson's Cross Roads Church was beginning. Mollie did as her dad said and wrote a lot of things he told her. Being a small child then, she doesn't remember now what she wrote on that paper, nor what her dad did with it.

What a pity we can't know the details of our beginnings. Sometimes we forget how important history is. Now that we are one hundred years old, we wish our history

had been preserved.

Nevertheless, we are glad someone decided we needed to worship here at these crossroads. We are grateful for the people who started it and those who have nurtured it these one hundred years. We praise God most of all because all of this is His work and His workings.

## And Then We Grew

Since the records of the first twenty years of Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church were lost during a tornado in 1917, we will have to imagine what happened during those early years. Therefore these first paragraphs are mostly fiction because we don't know them to be facts.

As has been stated earlier, settlers in Hinson's Crossroads were going to church, some to Fair Bluff Baptist Church and some to Porter Swamp Baptist Church. This much we do know from Porter Swamp's minutes and statements in Recollections and Record. We can imagine that riding in a horse drawn wagon or walking such a distance must have been difficult.

Probably the Hammonds, the Meares, the Floyds, the Hinsons, the Shelleys and others met time and again to borrow farm equipment or sugar or flour, became acquainted and discussed, among other things, God and the church. Perhaps one told the other of difficulties of getting the children ready for church in time to make the long trips and get there on time. Then the idea of having their own place of worship began to form.

As the men helped each other build houses and barns, they kept talking of how nice it would be to meet together at the crossroads. As the women cooked those big meals together while the men were having the barn raisings and the house raisings, they talked of the same thing. Even though women

were not recognized as leaders in those days, we can be sure they influenced their husbands a lot.

Just as today, it took a long time to get ideas to be real happenings, we can easily believe that these thoughts and actions began in or before 1894. But there were so many things to work out before they could become an organized church. First they had to have some place to meet. Even though they could meet in homes in the community, the houses were probably small with not enough chairs to accommodate many people. And besides, what they wanted was a central meeting place, preferably at the crossroads.

We can imagine Mr. C. W. Shelley saying, "Boys, if we could just get us a church organized, Martha and I could give some land on the southeast corner of the crossroads; but where are we going to meet until we can get a church building built?"

We can hear Mr. J. J. Hammond say, "Why about meeting in the school building? We would use it only one weekend a month, and the children don't go to school on weekends anyway."

Mr. Javan Hammond, Mr. A. L. Meares and Mr. J. Q. Hammond all volunteered to give trees to be cut for timber to build a church building.

Mr. C. H. Hilbourn and Mr. W. G. Hammond suggested that they use volunteer labor to cut down on the cost. Mr. W. M. Hammond and Mr. A. M. Hammond thought this was a very good idea. Mr. J. E. Hinson and Mr. Enode Wade asked about talking with Rev. Moses Pridgen and Rev. W. W. Willis about helping with organizing the church. Mr. Francis Floyd said that was the way it should be handled since these ministers had worked with other churches and were known to be wise and dedicated preachers.

The woman, Mr. Dollie Wade, Ms. Addie Meares. Ms. Maggie Shelley, Ms. Frances Hammond, Ms. Mary Meares, Ms. Julia Scott, Ms. Martha Shelley, Ms. Lula Hammond and



Ms. Jane Hinson were very happy as they listened to or heard about these conversations. They thought they would get to go to church more often, it were that close to home.

The men contacted Revs Pridgen and Willis and scheduled a time when they could meet. Rev. Willis had recently been pastor of Spring Branch Baptist Church. He knew some of the deacons of Spring Branch were acquainted with the Hinson's Crossroads group. In fact, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Shelley had lived in Spring Branch community before moving to Hinson's Crossroads. So he asked some of those deacons to accompany him and Rev. Pridgen when they met with the Hinson's Crossroads men.

Spring Branch Baptists were glad to learn that another church was about to be organized. They took up a collection and carried it with them to the meeting to help in any way the new church needed it.

On November 7, 1897, Rev. Moses Pridgen, Rev. W. W. Willis and deacons from Spring Branch Baptist Church met with about twenty people who had recently asked for their membership from Porter Swamp Baptist Church and Fair Bluff Baptist Church and organized Mt. Herman Baptist Church at Hinson's Crossroads.

We don't know why our church was first called Mt. Herman. Sometime before 1903 the name was changed to Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church and the church joined the Cape Fear Columbus Association.

From the preserved copy of minute of Cape Fear Columbus Association we read:

The church at Hinson's Cross Roads makes application for membership into this body. Moderator appointed Revs. J. G. Blalock and A. H. Porter a committee to investigate the Articles of Faith, etc. of said church. Committee reports that they find the church in order, and on

motion she was received.

The Association minutes did not record a pastor in 1903 nor 1904. The church clerk in 1903 was C. W. Shelley. Pastor in 1905 was M. Pridgen. Remember that Rev. Moses Pridgen was one of the ministers who helped organize the church. Mr. C. W. Shelley was church clerk each year that has a record for 1903 through 1915. Some years there was no report printed in the Associational minutes from our church. Mr. Shelley died in May 1916.

Rev. C. Stanley was pastor from 1906 through 1920. G. J. Hammond was church clerk from 1917 through 1921. This Mr. Hammond was grandfather of Pittman Strickland, one of our members in 1997. Mr. Hammond died in 1922.

It is interesting to note that our church, as well as most others, had the same man a Sunday School Superintendent and Church Clerk.

In 1905 Hinson's Cross Roads pledged \$5.00 to Foreign Missions. The church had a membership of 71 in 1906, 94 in 1915, and 133 in 1916. Total finances for the year of 1916 was \$104.64.

Some of our oldest living members remember things from the early years of the church, although not it's beginning.

Ms. Nettie Barnes, who was born in 1904, remembers the first church building as being a straight building with two rows of seats. The men sat on one side and the ladies sat on the others side. She recalls that later Sunday School rooms were built and also a second front door. A steeple was also added.

Ms. Barnes remembers teaching young people when she was a young girl. One year she was elected to teach the men's class. That was quite a task for her and unusual for those days.

Ms. Nettie was Ms. Esther Hammond's sister. Their mother was a good supporter of the church. Often in those

days there was not enough money in the treasury to pay the preacher's salary. Gordon Hammond, Ms. Esther's son, was given the job of going from house to house to collect enough money to pay the preacher. When he got to Grandma Tart's house, she asked how much money was lacking and gave him all that was needed.

Ms. Barnes remembers one Special Sunday School teacher from the early years was a Methodist, Ms. Madge Dudney. Ms. Dudney and her family were members of the Cerro Gordo Methodist Church. With roads so bad and transportation so slow, Cerro Gordo was too far to travel to church, so they attended church at Hinson's Cross Roads.

Ms. Nettie recalls when her older sister, Esther, was dating Mr. Joe (J. J.) Hammond. Mr. Joe gave Ms. Esther an engagement ring. She was afraid to tell her mother where the ring came from, so when asked, she said she found it in the field.

Mr. Von Edwards, born in 1906, who was a member of Hinson's cross Roads Baptist Church before Cypress Branch Freewill Baptist was organized, remembered the first church building, and recalls that Mr. and Ms. Shelley gave the land on which it was built. His brother, Frank, helped build the first steeple.

Ms. Alma Reel, who was born in 1907, remembers living within sight of the church before she was married. She married Mr. Jim Reel when she was fifteen years of age, and at that time had to leave the youth Sunday School Class and become a member of the old Ladies' class.

Rev. Jasper Hinson, also born in 1907, remembers G. J. Hammond, one of the early leaders of the church. Jasper's Aunt Ellen was married to Mr. (G. J.) Javan Hammond. Mr. Hammond was church clerk in 1917, and the church records were at his house when the tornado blew them (the records) and his house away. Jasper said that the tornado came on Friday and Mr. Hammond's house was completely destroyed.

The following Monday morning, the men of the church began cutting down trees. Someone brought a portable saw mill to the site. The logs were sawed into boards. By the end of the week the Javan Hammond family. Had a house to live in. Mr. Javan and another man of the community had not spoken to each other in several years. This man worked as hard on Mr. Hammond's house as any of the others. When the building was finished, the grudge had been forgotten.

Jasper's brother, Weldon, and Mr. Joe Hammond helped build Sunday School rooms and the steeple on the original church building. Jasper also remembers that soon after World War I was over. Ms. Mary Martin gave the bell for the Steeple which cost her twelve dollars. At the time Ms. Martin died, Jasper was church janitor. His job was to open and close the church doors and ring the bell. After Ms. Martin's funeral, when they left the church with the body, Jasper rang the bell as long as he could see the funeral precession, as a tribute to Ms. Martin for the gift of the bell.

Rev. Hinson's remembers Mr. C. W. Shelley as a great spiritual leader. He loved Mr. Shelley very much and remembers slipping away to cry his heart out when he died.

Jasper recalls giving his heart to Christ when he was eight years old. The school principal at Hinson's Cross Roads, A. C. Chapin, was also a preacher; and was leading in the revival at the church. Jasper's parents would not allow him to be baptized until he was fourteen.

From the thoughts and longings of those few early settlers in Hinson's Cross Roads in the late 1800's to the 133 members of 1916-1917, the church grew, slowly, steadily. Sometimes growth is not seen in numbers, but in dedication and in love for one another. God is always in the growth because without Him we can do nothing.

## A Walk Through the Years

In 1917 Rev. Cornelius Stanley was pastor of Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church. The church membership was 133; Sunday School with 181 enrolled had an average attendance of 91. The Sunday School superintendent was G. J. Hammond. Deacons in 1917 were G. J. Hammond, J. J. Hammond, J. N. Small, Page Floyd and W. B. Jenkins. The church clerk was G. J. Hammond. The Associational meeting was held at Hallsboro Baptist Church. Our messengers were J. J. Hammond, G. T. Hammond and Charlie Floyd.

This year a building committee was appointed consisting of John Edmond, J. J. Hammond, W. B. Jenkins, Charlie Floyd, and G. J. Hammond. They were instructed to look after the business of enlarging the church house.

The expenses of the church year were:

\$ 5.00	for building improvement
33.72	Sunday School expense
16.66	Care of the poor
2.00	State Missions
3.00	Home Missions
3.00	Foreign Missions
2.00	Publications and Sunday School work
4.00	Baptist Orphanage
5.00	Ministers and Widows Fund
2.00	Education
.30	Printing minutes
<u>1.00</u>	<u>Miscellaneous</u>
\$ 77.68	Total Expenses

Rev. Cornelius Stanley was again pastor in 1918.



Church membership had dropped to 124. Sunday School enrollment was down to 114 with an average attendance of 65.

Many of the older members remember Rev. Stanley. They remember his driving a white mule to church. He came once each month on Saturday for conference and stayed until Sunday for preaching service. He usually spent Saturday nights at the home of Mr. Joe and Ms Esther Hammond.

Ms. Nettie Barnes tells this story. Mr. Joe and Ms. Esther had three sons, Gordon, Owen, and Fred who were quite mischievous. They took care of Rev. Stanley's mule. One Saturday night Ms. Esther had fried chicken for supper. The boys always wanted to get the pulley-bone (wish-bone). Owen said it wasn't because they loved that piece of chicken more than other parts, but because they liked the game of making a wish and two of them breaking the bone. The one who got the larger part of the bone was supposed to get what he wished for. This time when the platter of chicken was passed to the preacher, he took the pulley-bone. Fred, the youngest son, yelled, "The preacher got the pulley-bone. Get it, Owen, get it!" We wonder what happened to Fred when the preacher went home.

Rev. Jasper Hinson said that Rev. Stanley's last year as pastor, he was promised \$150.00; but the church was able to pay him only \$102.00. On his last Sunday with the church, he told them to forget the rest of his salary and forget the debt.

The church elected a committee to investigate reports of bad conduct. L. C. Barnes, J. N. Small, G. J. Hammond, W. H. Martin, A. J. Meares and W. B. Jenkins were elected to this committee.

The general officers did not change from 1917. The investigating committee seemed to be busy. One lady was excluded from the church for fornication and several men were accused of drunkenness, disorderly conduct and going to law without consulting the church.

From reading other church histories we learn that one

church member was not to take another church members to court without first bring the matter before the church at a conference.

It seems that several times a year churches met for a Union. Hinson's Cross Roads always sent delegates. The delegates for the November Union in 1918 were G. J. Hammond, Jessie Hammond, and John Edmond.

In February of 1918 Mr. and Ms. Vester Edwards moved their membership form Cherry Grove Baptist Church to Hinson's Cross Roads. Mr. J. R. Parker moved his letter from Smyrna Baptist in November.

## 1919

Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church total membership in 1919 was 118. Sunday School enrollment was 131 with an average attendance of 63. Church expenses for this year was \$274.95.

Mr. and Ms. J. N. Small moved their church letter to Fair Bluff Baptist Church in November of 1919.

From reading the minutes we learn that church members could ask for their letter and personally carry them to another church.

## 1920

In 1920 Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Floyd were given their church letters to join another church. Also a letter of dismissal was given E. M. Edmond to join the First Baptist Church of Mullins, S. C. Mr. and Mrs. F. McDonald brought their letters from Barnesville Baptist Church.

Our messengers to the Association in 1920 were J. J. Hammond, Page Floyd, and Jessie Hammond. Our Union delegates were J. J. Hammond, Charlie Hammond, and G. J.

1921

In March 1921 letters of dismissal were granted to Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Strickland and Charlie Strickland to unite with Porter Swamp Baptist Church.

Hinson's Cross Roads' pastor was Rev. W. A. Coleman and the church membership total was 116. Sunday School enrollment was 135 with an average attendance of 47. Our church expenses for this year was \$173.25.

On May 14, 1921 in conference, C. M. Hammond was appointed clerk pro tem in the absence of church clerk G. J. Hammond. This position was held by C. M. Hammond for many years.

Delegates to the Association in 1921 were A. J. Hinson, A. F. Shelley and J. J. Hammond.

Evidently there had been a severe storm prior to May 14, 1921. At the end of the conference, thanks were returned to God that no one was lost in the storm.

On November 18<sup>th</sup> Ms. Patsy Conner was received as a member by letter. Letter of dismissal were granted to J. Barnes and Mr. and Ms. D. A. Floyd. December 17<sup>th</sup> letters of dismissal were granted to J. M. Fairfax and J. W. McDonald.

1922

On June 17, 1922 Pastor W. A. Coleman resigned. Later in the year, August 20<sup>th</sup>, the church called Rev. Cornelius Stanley as pastor. It was decided at this time to pay the pastor a salary. J. J. Hammond and C. M. Hammond were appointed to contact members and raise the money.

The church letter recorded the church membership as



105. Sunday School enrollment was 110 with an average attendance of 45. L. C. Barnes was Sunday School superintendent. Total expenditure for the church years was \$33.15 Deacons were G. J. Hammond, J. J. Hammond, Page Floyd, Charlie Floyd, and A. F. Shelley. Delegates to the Association were J. J. Hammond, C. M Hammond, Bill Caulder, W. B. Jenkins, and L. C. Barnes.

The members were concerned that the building was still unfinished.

In August of 1922, a rule was adopted that any physically able male who failed to give a reasonable amount to pay the pastor would be sighted.

Ms. Cora Ammons was received by letter on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Letters of dismissal were granted to Ms. Burse Phillips and Ms. Flora Jones.

## 1923

Rev. Cornelius Stanley was again called as pastor on September 1, 1923. At the same conference J. J. Hammond, A. J. Hammond and C. M. Hammond were appointed delegates to the Union which was held at Piney Forest Baptist Church.

In January D. V. Watts moved his church letter to Hinson's Cross Roads. February 3<sup>rd</sup> Rhoda Hinson was received into the church by letter.

A committee was appointed to contact absent members. This committee consisted of A. J. Hinson, J. J. Hammond, and A. F. Shelley. Mr. Hammond was authorized to write to members who lived a great distances away. May 12<sup>th</sup> L. C. Barnes and Francis Floyd were added to the absentee committee.

Delegates to the Cape Fear Columbus Association in 1923 were J. J. Hammond. L. C. Barnes, W. B. Jenkins, A. F. Shelley and C. M. Hammond.

Letters for W. P. Strickland and A. J. Hammond were received and they became members of the church.

## 1924

The year of 1924 brought new names into the forefront. Delegates to the Union held at Cherry Grove Church were Irvin Meares, Charlie Nance and Willie Edwards along with veteran J. J. Hammond. Another Union held at Hinson's Cross Roads had Slim Dudney, Selma Ellis and Willie Edwards as delegates.

Our pastor was Rev. Cornelius Stanley. Church membership was 144, Sunday School enrollment 140 with an average attendance of 76. The Sunday School superintendent was Charlie Floyd.

Ms. Cora Meares was given a letter of dismissal. Ms. Etta Small was given a letter of dismissal to unite with Evergreen Baptist Church. Ms. Lottie Edward Smith was also granted a letter of dismissal. Ms. Mary Edwards joined our church by letter.

## 1925

On May 2, 1925 a motion was made that the second charge of drunkenness or profanity be grounds for exclusion from church membership.

On December 5<sup>th</sup> W. H. Martin and L. C. Barnes resigned from the investigating Committee and were replaced by A. F. Shelley and Selma Ellis.

Rev. Cornelius Stanley was still pastor. The church had 149 members. The Sunday School had 140 enrolled with an average attendance of 75.

On January 1<sup>st</sup> Haynes Hilbourn moved his church

letter from Porter Swamp to Hinson's Cross Roads and evidently became a very active member quickly. He was one of the messengers to the Association in October. Other messengers were J. J. Hammond, C. M. Hammond, A. F. Shelley, Willie Edwards, Clayton Foley, Ms. Dollie Shelley and Ms. Johnnie Hammond. This is the first time we have records of ladies attending any such meeting as a delegate or messenger.

In conference held May 2, 1925 Ms. Alice Cribb Martin moved her church letter from Fair Bluff Baptist to our church. The church letter of Beulah Jenkins and Lula Edwards were granted September 27<sup>th</sup>.

## 1926

In 1926 our pastor was Rev. Cornelius Stanley. Our members had reached 147. Sunday School enrollment was 124. Average attendance was 76. Charlie Floyd was Sunday School superintendent.

During the year we notice the name of Jasper Hinson in the records. Alvie Hinson was also mentioned, as was Clauson Edmonds, Frank Haynes and Pearlie Strickland. These men, whose names have not been seen before, were named as delegates to the Association and Union.

Some churches had asked that L. C. Barnes be ordained to the ministry. On April 3, 1926 the church voted to ordain him.

On September 9<sup>th</sup> Alton Nobles joined Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church with a letter of recommendation from Williamson's Cross Roads. December 4<sup>th</sup> a letter of dismission was granted to W. C. Hinson.

## 1927

On the first Sunday of April 1927 L. C. Barnes was ordained to the ministry in Hinson's Cross Roads Church. At the same service Willie Edwards, Charlie Nance and Jessie Hammond were ordained as deacons.

The pastor of the church in 1927 was Cornelius Stanley. The church had 146 members. Sunday School enrollment was 136 and the average attendance was 80. The leader of Sunday School was Charlie Floyd. Although money wasn't plentiful, the church continued to give to State, Home and Foreign Missions.

On the first day of January in 1927 a letter of dismission was granted for Ernest Hinson. In June Belton Conner and Rufus Edwards came under the watch care of the church until their letters could be obtained from others churches. In October letters of dismission were given for W. M. Strickland, Mr. and Ms. Frank Edwards, Tular Ammons and Addie Knight to unite with Porter Swamp Baptist.

C. M. Hammond continued as church clerk. Deacons were J. J. Hammond, L. C. Barnes, Charlie Floyd, Jessie Hammond, A. F. Shelley, Willie Edward, and Charlie Nance.

## 1928

In 1928 the church voted to observe the Lord's Supper every three months. The treasurer was ordered to bring charges against male members who did not comply with the rule of giving toward the pastor's salary.

In February the charge of adultery was brought against a male member and he was excluded. In a lot of the minutes we read of charges brought against men but this is the only one recorded as having been charged with adultery.

With Rev. C. Stanley as pastor, the membership had increased 148. Sunday School, led by Jessie Hammond, had an enrollment of 140 and an average attendance of 76.

Jasper Hinson was a licensed preacher in 1928, as was Jessie Hammond. J. J. Hammond resigned as church treasurer in November of this year. In later years two of Mr. Hammond's sons, Gordon and Fred, served as treasurer also.

In February, letters were granted to Mr. and Ms. W. H. Martin. In June, Beulah Fairfax Cox was also granted a letter of dismissal.

Mr. A. F. Shelley was appointed to take care of the preparation of the quarterly Lord's Supper. In 1997 his descendants are still taking care of these preparations. His daughter Lucille Campbell and granddaughter Pat Campbell Spaw and husband Chuck are presently taking care of the Lord's Supper preparation.

## 1929

1929 began with Rev. C. Stanley leading Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist, with a membership 150. The Sunday School enrollment was 136 and the average attendance was 75.

Gilbert Hinson died in 1929. L. T. Shelley was church treasurer. Messengers to the association were Jessie Hammond, C. M. Hammond, Billie Caulder, J. J. Hammond and S. S. Herring.

## 1930

The first conference brought two new members to the church. Letters of recommendation from Fair Bluff Baptist for W. C. Caulder and from Williamson's Cross Roads for Louneta Edmonds were read in conference on January 4<sup>th</sup>. May 3<sup>rd</sup> a letter of dismissal was granted for Lizzie Suggs to join Boardman Baptist Church. Also a letter of dismissal was given to Jasper Hinson. September 6<sup>th</sup> Ellis Fairfax asked for a letter for dismissal and was denied. A letter of dismissal

was granted to Maggie Miller Worley on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. and Ms. Pearlie Strickland received letters on dismission in December.

On July 6, 1930 Rev. I. F. Newton was nominated as pastor. There was a letter read from Mr. Wilson D. Pridgen, evidently on behalf of Rev. Newton. September 27<sup>th</sup> these July minutes were repealed and Rev. I. F. Britt was called as pastor.

Delegates to the Union at Porter Swamp in March of 1930 were Jessie Hammond, W. P. Watts, A. F. Shelley, Jasper Hinson, Billie Caulder, Miss Lizzie Shelley and A. J. Hinson. Miss Shelley must have been very happy to accompany her dad, A. F. Shelley, to a meeting as important as the Union.

## 1931

February 29, 1931 letters of dismission were granted to Charlie and Ms. Charity Floyd and Mr. Floyd asked to be relieved of his deaconship. Ten men were excluded from church membership because of being absent from conference. A letter of dismission was granted to Pherby Andrews McKenzie in January, one to Carrie Grainger in February. S. L. and Ella Purvis were received into our church, coming from Porter Swamp in June. Robert Hammond was placed under the watch care of the church until his letter could be received from Porter Swamp.

Rev. I. F. Britt was pastor and was recalled for another year. Church membership was 147. Sunday School enrollment was 132 with an average attendance of 65. Willie Edwards was Sunday School superintendent.

Finances were as follows:

\$ 222.00	Church expenses
26.51	Sunday School expenses
9.41	Poor



11.40 Home Missions

8.11 Orphanage

5.50 Miscellaneous

Evidently church expenses included the pastor's salary.

1932

In 1932 Rev. I. F. Britt was pastor. Church membership was 182. Twenty-six had been baptized this year, ten had joined by letter, one had been restored and one had joined by experience. Sunday School enrollment was 130, with an average attendance of 65, Bill Caulder was superintendent of Sunday School.

Ordained ministers who were church members were S. L. Purvis, and L. C. Barnes. Jessie Hammond was listed on the church letter as a licenced preacher.

In conference April 30, 1930 some of the members tried to abolish the absentee rule but were voted down. Instead they changed the rule to say that when one was absent from four conferences (instead of three) they would be excluded from membership.

On December 30<sup>th</sup> the absentee ruling was brought up again and a committee was appointed to study the rule.

Sometimes when work kept one away from home, he would ask for a leave of absence from conferences. In February 1932, Kelley Fairfax was granted a six month leave of absence and Robert Hammond was granted three months.

In March a letter of dismission was granted to Dora Watts to join Bear Swamp Baptist Church. In April Dougle Miller was received under the watch care of the church until his letter could be obtained from Bear Swamp. In October J. M. Strickland joined our church with a letter from Porter Swamp. Ms. Thelma Walters asked for a letter of dismission.

In December a letters were received from Cedar Grove Baptist Church recommending Ms. Caldonia Meares, from Porter Swamp recommending Ms. Ella Jenkins, from Piney Grove, recommending Mamie Hinson and from North Charleston recommending Jasper Hinson.

December 31, 1932 it was decided that every male member will give according to his ability in an effort to raise \$150.00 for the pastor's salary. L. T. Shelley, A. F. Shelley, Jasper Hinson, Keiver Meares, and C. M. Hammond were to make allotments as they felt each person could give. These allotments were to be read at the next conference.

## 1933

Conference was held February 4, 1933; the committee to make assessments had decided to asked that \$175.00 be raised by male members. Female members were each to give \$.25 during the year, hoping this would add another \$25.00 so that the pastor could receive \$200.00.

A rule was adopted in 1933 that a collection be taken at every regular worship service.

Keiver Meares was appointed assistant church clerk in February 1933. L. T. Shelley and Jasper Hinson were elected to the finance committee.

Two outstanding leaders in the church seemed to be having conflict in June 1933. A committee was appointed to help settle the trouble. It was reported in the August conference that the trouble had been settled. The same thing happened in 1923. Two brothers were having a dispute. A committee was appointed to help settle it. Three months later it was reported that the problem was solved.

It makes us wonder if this method of solving problems would work in today's world.

Rev. I. F. Britt was pastor. Church membership was



175. Sunday School enrollment was 209. The average attendance was 91. The Sunday School superintendent was Jasper Hinson.

Ms. Lewis Jacobs, Mr. J. A. Hinson, Mr. A. J. Hinson, Miss Frances Hammond, Mrs. Louise Fairfax and Mrs. Lula Hammond died in 1933.

Ms. Ida Jewel Fipps Jenkins moved her membership from Porter Swamp. A letter was granted to Agnes Ellis Butler to join Boardman Baptist Church.

In March of 1933 a decorum for the church was discussed. A committee was appointed to "form and fix a list of rules of decorum." This committee consisted of Willie Edwards, Jessie Hammond, J. J. Hammond, A. F. Shelley, and W. P. Watts. This committee was not ready to report in April, nor in May of 1933. In June the decorum committee reported and the rules were accepted. The minutes do not tell what the rules were nor do we know where they are written.

Ms. Hannah Shepherd moved her church letter from Boardman to Hinson's Cross Roads in June of 1933. A letter of dismission was given L. C. Barnes to join Calvary Baptist Church.

On September 9, 1933 the nominating committee was appointed. They were Ms. Dollie Nance, Ms. Letus Edwards, J. J. Hammond, A. F. Shelley and Jessie Hammond. This is the first time that a nominating committee had ladies serving on it.

In late September a letter of dismission was granted to Paisley Sealey. Also his wife's sister, Lola, was granted her letter. They were moving their membership to Evergreen Baptist Church.

The committee presented the nominees for officers for church year 1933-34 on September 30, 1933:

Sunday School Superintendent - Jasper Hinson  
Assistant - Jessie Hammond

Choir Leader - Dempsey Hinson

Sunday School Secretary - Keenon Meares

Sunday School classes:

Adult #1 - Willie Edwards

Senior #2 - L. T. Shelley

Young People #3 - Katie Hinson

Young People #4 - Jessie Hilbourn, Jr.

Young People #5 - Dollie Nance

Intermediates and Juniors #6 -

Mollie Hammond

Primaries #7 - Pauline Hinson

Beginners #8 - Letus Edwards

Beginners #9 - Victoria Meares

Cradle Roll - Edna Shelly

Janitor - Jasper Hinson

Evidently, the church was rich in young people and children. Note the number of classes from cradle roll through young people.

1934

Pastor in the beginning of 1934 was I. F. Britt with a salary of \$150.00. Church members numbered 169. Sunday School enrollment was 155 with an average attendance of 90. Value of all church property was \$2,652.75. This year the church building was repaired and a new roof installed.

On October 3, 1934 Rev. Cade Deaver was called as pastor. Mr. Rembert Strickland and Ms. Claud Strickland died this year.

The church letter for Ms. Hannah Miller was received. A letter recommending Ms. Emma Barnhill was received from Cherry Grove Church. Letters were also received from Fair Bluff Baptist for Ms. Leatus Edwards and Ms. Katie Hinson.

New names on the nominating Committee were Mollie Hammond and C. W. Shelley. Mr. Ed Williams was elected Sunday School superintendent for the church year 1934-35. Earl Edwards became choir director, taking the place of Dempsey Hinson who became janitor. Lucille Shelly began teaching children this year. She served well in this position for many, many years.

## 1935

In 1935 Rev. Cade Deaver was pastor of Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church. We had 169 members, a Sunday School enrollment of 171, and an average attendance of 68.

1935 was the first year the church gave to the Cooperative Program. The amount given was \$13.61.

Earl Edwards and Keiver Meares were appointed as deacons in 1935. They were to be proved three months. Jasper Hinson asked that he church ordain him to the ministry. The church agreed to do this.

A. C. Meares was appointed janitor this year. It was decided to pay him \$1.00 per month, the money to be collected during preaching service.

On July 6, 1935 the church voted to drop the rule that caused male members to be excluded from the church if they missed conference three or four times.

Another new name appears on the nominating Committee list, that of Isabell Meares. Ira Campbell was a new name on the list of Sunday School teachers.

Church letters were received for W. C. Hinson, Ed Barnes, Frankie Caulder and Othello Hinson.

## 1936

Two ladies, Mollie Hammond and Dollie Nance, were appointed as messengers to the Association, along with J. J. Hammond, Jessie Hammond and A. F. Shelly in 1936.

On April 4, 1936 a letter of dismissal was granted to Clayton Meares. On May 2<sup>nd</sup> William Caulder was granted the right to preach "as he may have opportunity."

Cypress Branch Freewill Baptist Church had begun in 1935, with members of Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church who wanted to practice their faith in their own way. On December 6, 1936 Don Watts, Ms. Frostie Edwards and Ms. Gussie Godwin left to join them.

Grace Meares became church Sexton in 1936.

## 1937

On June 5, 1937 the church voted to call a pastor for an indefinite period of time instead of once each year. The plan was if the church decided it wanted a pastor to leave, it must give him a three month's notice. If the pastor wanted to leave the church, he must give three months notice.

The church voted to establish a budget. A finance committee, consisting of L. T. Shelley, J. J. Hammond, Jasper Hinson, and Haynes Hilbourn, was elected. They decided that the church budget total \$500.00.

\$ 275.00	Pastor
100.00	Building Fund
50.00	Ministerial Help
25.00	Cooperative Program
25.00	Orphanage

Each female member was to give \$1.00 per year.

The pastor in 1937 was Rev. Cade Deaver. The church membership numbered 169. Sunday School enrollment was

153 and 85 was the average attendance.

## 1938

In 1938 the church ordained William Caulder to the ministry. With Rev. Cade Deaver as pastor, the church membership reached 170. Enrollment in Sunday School was 137. Average attendance was 85.

The finance committee who had worked on the budget was to determine how much male members should contribute.

On the first Sunday of October, Ira Campbell was elected to look after the upkeep of the church building. He was to be given \$6.00 a year for supplies.

Fred Hammond, Jessie Meares, Carl Shelley and Billie Caulder were elected Ushers November 5, 1938.

Rev. E. W. Johnson, pastor of Fair Bluff Baptist Church, led our church in revival services in October.

In a called Conference near the end of 1938, the Church voted to increase the pastor's salary by \$25.00.

## 1939

The church made plans February 4, 1939 to file changes against members who failed to support the church. On April 1<sup>st</sup> of that year it was decided to drop those plans.

It was suggested that the church change pastors at the end of the year. R. L. Hammond, Jessie Hammond, A. F. Shelley, Jasper Hinson, and Brooks Floyd were to search for pastors who might serve and report to the church as soon as possible. Gordon Hammond and Keiver Meares were appointed as alternates on this Committee.

June 4, 1939 Perry Lee Kissam moved her church letter to Evergreen Baptist Church.

Delegates to the Union in June were J. J. Hammond, Ms. Ella Jenkins, and Ms. Lucille Campbell. Messengers elected to be sent to the Association in September 1938 were J. J. Hammond, Keiver Meares, and Ms. Ella Jenkins.

## 1940

In 1940 Ms. A. J. Hinson and Ms. Lou Hinson were granted letters of dismission to join Maple Baptist Church. Mollie Hammond Whitehead moved her Church letter to Cedar Grove Baptist Church. Belton Commor was given a letter to unite with Porter Swamp.

Ms. Mary Thompson Meares remembers that when she married Keiver and moved to Hinson's Crossroads that Mollie Hammond was her Sunday School teacher. She had been here only a short time when Mollie married Jack Whitehead and moved her membership to the church that Mary had just left, Cedar Grove Baptist.

On June 4, 1940 someone tried to revive the rule about excluding a member who had missed three Conferences, but was not successful.

On the finance committee this year were Robert Hammond, A. F. Shelley, Ira Campbell, Haynes Hilbourne and Keiver Meares. Messengers to the Association were K. L. Meares, Dollie Shelly and Keenon Meares.

We have seen Ms. Dollie Shelley's name several times in the last few years. She was one of the first women to be appointed messenger to the Association. That was in October of 1925. She was the wife of A. F. Shelley and mother of Lizzie Hinson and Lucille Campbell.

She is remembered as the one who organized most of the missionary organizations. Rev. Jasper Hinson remembers that she organized a Sunbeam group when he was three year old.



Ms. Alma Reel recalls Ms. Dollie reprimanding her for missing a W.M.S. (Women's Missionary Society) meeting. She also remembers Ms. Dollie bringing Supper already cooked when she (Ms. Alma) had been working in the fields all day.

Ms. Mollie Whitehead remembers leaving school and going to Ms. Dollie's house for Sunbeam meetings and eating Chocolate cake.

Many of our older members remember Ms. Dollie as a Christian who believed in helping others. She also believed in confronting another Christian face to face if that one had erred from the way. She would not take "no" for an answer where God's work, especially missions, was concerned.

## 1941

Rev. Cade Deaver resigned as pastor of Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church the first Sunday in July 1941. The church called Rev. Paul Britt September 6th of that year.

Keiver Meares was church clerk in 1941. Messengers to the Association were A. F. Shelley, Haynes Hilbourn, Curtis Fairfax, Curtis Strickland and Dougle Miller.

D. D. Williams was Sunday School superintendent. The church asked him to name a committee to elect officers and teachers for the church year 1941-42.

Ms. Lizzie Barnes was given a letter of dismissal October 14<sup>th</sup> to join Porter Swamp Baptist Church.

## 1942

In 1942 the church had Rev. Paul Britt as pastor. The membership was 162. Sunday School enrollment was 134 with an average attendance of 90. French Nobles was Sunday

School Superintendent, and C. W. Shelly was church clerk.

In February the budget was recorded as \$505.00. A five dollar wreath was to be purchased by the treasurer if any member of the church died during the year. The pastor's salary \$250.00, \$25.00 from the budget for the revival helper and the church was to raise \$25.00 more. The sexton was given \$12.00, the hospital \$10.00, Cooperative program \$15.00, and the orphanage given the money collected on the third Sunday.

Church letters from Maple Baptist Church for Jasper, Katie and Andy Hinson were received December 13<sup>th</sup>.

The treasurer was authorized to order material for church bulletins.

On December 28<sup>th</sup> Pastor Jasper Hinson recommends that a goal be set for all causes including Cooperative Program; that the treasurer pay out as designated except for special offerings. He recommended that an envelope system be used a canvas be made, and that offerings be collected weekly. He recommended that a building program be established to improve the church building.

A building committee consisting of A. F. Shelley, Clyde Hinson, J. C. Edmonds, French Nobles, Gordon Hammond, and Keenon Meares were appointed. The finance committee was composed of Rob Hammond, Curtis Fairfax, Haynes Hilbourne, Alvae Hinson, Dempsey Hinson and Gordon Hammond. Ushers were James Edmonds, Eugene Hammond, Russell Barnes and O. C. Jenkins. Members of the canvassing committee were Mamie Hinson, Isabell Hammond, Dollie Shelley. Esselle Hammond, Shep Hilbourn, Johnnie Hammond, Curtis Strickland, Margaret Shelley and Nettie Barnes.

When we visited Rev. Hinson in 1994 to learn what he remembers about the early days of Hinson's Cross Roads Church, he said that although he is listed as pastor of this church, that he only filled in between pastors. This time in 1942 must have been when he was interim. Judging from the

two preceding paragraphs, he must have believed in getting everybody busy.

In conference it was recommended that the church adopt a rotation system for deacons. At the same conference J. J. Hammond was made an honorary lifetime deacon. Mr. Hammond's health had become so bad that he was unable to attend church as he had all the past years. He had served God and the church without wavering since his youth. He was a charter member of Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church, moving his membership from Porter Swamp in September 1897.

## 1943

In 1943 the church followed up on the recommendation of rotating deacons and adopted the policy.

On January 12<sup>th</sup> the deacons and the building committee met and discussed repairing the church building. Instead they decided to build a new building. They also adopted the unified budget system.

It was decided to ask Jabe Small to build the new building. A. F. Shelley and Keenon Meares were appointed to get the building permit. Rob Hammond, Gordon Hammond, French Nobles and Alva Hinson were to buy the lumber. Jasper Hinson, Bill Caulder, and Gordon Hammond were appointed to get lighting fixtures and pulpit chairs.

A pulpit committee was appointed to search for a pastor. They were Mamie Hinson, French Nobles, A. F. Shelley, Jessie Hammond and Haynes Hilbourn.

October 3, 1943 Rev. B. G. Early was called as pastor. French Nobles was moderator of this conference. C. M. Hammond was again church clerk and Gordon Hammond was treasurer. C. M. Hammond was appointed treasurer for the new building program.

Messengers to the Association, which was held at Lennon's Cross Roads, were Gordon and Isabelle Hammond and Keiver Meares.

## 1944

Rev. B. G. Early was pastor in 1944. His salary was \$600.00. The church had 179 members. Sunday School enrollment was 201 with an average attendance of 81. C. M. Hammond was church clerk, Gordon Hammond was treasurer. Jessie Hammond was choir director. Mamie Hinson was W.M.U.(Woman's Missionary Union) President. W.M.U. membership was 47. \$85.89 was given to Home and Foreign Missions that year, \$ 135.30 to Cooperative program, and \$5.00 to Associational missions. French Nobles was both Sunday School and Training Union director. Baptist Training Union had 42 members.

This is the first time that Training Union was mentioned in the records but may not be the first year it was held in our church. We have no church letter for the years of 1935 through 1941 and the 1942 letter has very little information.

In conference October 18, 1944 Emery Lovett and C. M. Hammond were appointed to investigate members who were attending churches of other dominations.

## 1945

In 1945 Rev. B. G. Early was still pastor. His salary was \$667.00. The church had 178 members. Sunday School had 160 enrolled. The value of the church property was \$12,500.00. This is the year that the new church building was built. The old building was sold to Luther and Ruth Edmonds

on April 2, 1945 for the sum of \$700.00. The bill of sale is hand-written on ordinary tablet paper.

Messengers to the Association were French and Eula Nobles, A. F. And Dollie Shelley, Mamie Hinson and Ed Barnes.

Ms. Strawdie Edwards and Ms. Nellie Edmonds died in 1945.

The following is a letter received by Rev. B. G. Early and written May 15, 1945:

Rev. B. G. Early  
Cerro Gordo, N. C.

Dear Sir:

We dressed the flooring for Hinson's Cross Roads today. I discussed with our foreman the matter of thickness of this lumber, and on careful examination he found that practically all the lumber would be thick enough to dress 25/32 inch which is the standard thickness of flooring. Some pieces would have made thicker flooring, but a good many pieces were thick at one end and thin at the other end. So we decided that it would be better to make it all uniform standard thickness. We enclose here with invoice, just as a matter of information the total is 3,256 feet.

Unless otherwise advised we shall plan to send this to the church sometime in the next few days at a cost of \$8.00 for the lot. We may have to wait until we have better weather as rain on kiln dried lumber would damage it.

Thanking you for this business, we remain,

Your's very truly  
Pierce and Company

The total cost for this load of flooring was \$43.16.

Rev. Early was the kind of pastor who got involved in every area of church life. He did a great deal toward the building of Hinson's Cross Roads' new church building. Having been serving as pastor for many years, he knew a lot about how to get work started, how to keep it going and how to get it done. He was a grandfather figure to those of us who were young in those days. He gave his opinion freely without apology. The people of Hinson's Cross Roads respected him and now cherish his memory.

## 1946

In early 1946 Rev. B. G. Early's salary was raised to \$1,050.25. The church has 205 members and 160 enrolled in Sunday School. The music director was Jessie Hammond, pianist - Ellen Barnes, church clerk - C. M. Hammond, treasurer - Gordon Hammond. W.M.U. had 88 members. Again this year French Nobles was leader in both Sunday School and Training Union.

Ms. Page Floyd, Ms. Neva Barnes and Mr. A. J. Hammond died. Messengers to the Association meeting at Hallsboro, were Dempsey Hinson, Haynes Hilbourn and Lizzie Hinson.

Letter of recommendation for the Hill family were received. J. M., H. H., J. D. Elwood, Lucille Hill (now Miller), Maude and Dortha Hill became members of Hinson's Cross Baptist Church. Letters of dismissals were granted to French Enzor, Pellum Strickland, Kathleen C. Pittman and Pattie Herring to unite with Spring Branch, Corinth, Evergreen and Fair Bluff Baptist Churches.

The minutes for 1946 were recorded in the book



September 26, 1967 by Rev. Joseph Creech, at the request of C. M. Hammond clerk in 1946. They were copied directly from the old minutes that Mr. Hammond had on loose leaf paper.

## 1947

What we have recorded about 1947 is very brief. Pastor B. G. Early was still serving as pastor. He received \$664.00 in salary that year. Membership was 209. Sunday School has 201 enrolled. Training Union enrollment was 142. W.M.U. had 62 members.

Messengers to the Association in 1947 were Jessie Hammond, French and Eula Nobles, Keiver and Mary Meares, Alva and Mamie Hinson. French Nobles was Sunday School director. Training Union director was Frank Strickland. Music director was Jessie Hammond, Ellen Barnes was pianist and church clerk was C. M. Hammond.

Although Keiver Meares was nominated as deacon in 1935, he was not ordained until October 1947.

Deacon L. T. Shelley and Mr. L. C. Edmonds died this year.

## 1948

Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church had its first Bible School in 1948. It was led by Stanley and Betty Howard who were newly weds. The church responded with great enthusiasm. The church building was packed every night. We had many young people and children who came. Adults came in great numbers. People who were working in the fields, stopped working early enough to get their baths and get to Bible School.

Rev. Howard drew beautiful pictures with chalk as he told stories. He had a puppet and was a ventriloquist. Betty was a very good assistant at everything Stanley did.

One young couple who attended this first Bible School were so impressed with the Howards that they named their son, born that summer, Stanley Howard. The son died five months later and Mr. Howard preached the funeral. In later years he told the couple that he had never preached a funeral before and was scared to death.

Messengers to the Association in 1948 were Keenon Meares, Ed Barnes, Emory Lovett, Mamie Hinson, A. F. and Dollie Shelley. The Nominating committee consisted of Lea Floyd, Othello Hinson, and Beulah Lovett. E. M. Barnes was church clerk. K. L. Meares was treasurer.

In September of 1948 the church elected a pulpit search committee. Members were Mamie Hinson, Clauson Edmonds, and A. F. Shelley. The pulpit committee and the deacons planned the budget after canvas cards were sent out and pledges made.

Gladys Hammond Blackwell was granted her church letter to unite with Cedar Grove Baptist Church. Alma Meares Bowers was given her letter to join Dorchester Waylyn Baptist Church in Charleston, S. C.

## 1949

Rev. R. C. Melton was our church's pastor in 1949. His salary was \$700.00

In the early part of the year Rev. B. C. Bass, pastor of the Fair Bluff Baptist Church was our interim pastor. He had been serving Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church since shortly after Rev. B. G. Early left in 1947. Rev. Bass preached on Sunday afternoon, since he was full-time pastor at Fair Bluff.

Music director for the church year 1949-50 was Mrs. R. C. Melton. The pianist was Dorothy Faye Hinson. Sunday School superintendent was J. C. Edmonds. French Nobles was Training Union director and Louola Meares W.M.U., president. There were 195 members enrolled in Sunday School with a average attendance of 108. Bible School enrollment was 118 with an average attendance of 104. B.T.U. (Baptist Training Union) had 81 members and W.M.U. 66 members.

Messengers to the Association were Keiver Meares, Alva Hinson, and E. M. Barnes. Alternates were Clauson Edmonds, French Nobles, and Keenon Meares.

Our total local expenses in 1949 was \$1,393.99 and we gave \$2,094.57 to missions.

On January 20<sup>th</sup> the church granted a letter to Mavis Elliott Causey to unite with Mount Olive Baptist Church, in Nichols, S.C.

On April 7<sup>th</sup> we voted to have conference Thursday night before the first preaching Sunday in each quarter.

On June 8<sup>th</sup> French Nobles resigned from the deacon board. At the same conference Harold Douglas Hinson was appointed to ring the church bell twice each service; first-thirty minutes before the service was to begin and second five minute before the service.

On September 9<sup>th</sup> the church elected three new deacons. They were Gordon Hammond, Lea Floyd and Mamie Hinson. They were ordained shortly thereafter. Ms. Floyd and Ms. Hinson were the first women to be elected deacons in Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church. We have as yet had no others.

## 1950

No minutes could be found for the year of 1950. The church letter was available so we have some documented information.

Rev. R. C. Melton was pastor. His Salary was \$1,053.92. We had 214 church members. We had 202 enrolled in Sunday School, with an average attendance of 61. Training Union enrollment was 90. The W.M.U. had a membership of 95. Jessie Hammond was chairman of deacons. Music Director was Mrs. R. C. Milton and pianist was Dorothy Faye Hinson. Treasurer was K. L. Meares, Sunday School director was Clauson Edmonds, W.M.U. president was Victoria Hinson and Training Union director was French Nobles.

Our local expenses for the year was \$3,995.99 and we gave \$976.15 to missions.

Messengers to the Association in 1950 were Clauson Edmonds, Mamie Hinson and French Nobles. Alternates were Keenon Meares, Lea Floyd and Eula Nobles.

## 1951

It was decided October 7, 1951 to call Rev. E. P. Lockamy to be our pastor at one-fourth-time (two services each moth). Rev. Lockamy asked to wait ninety days - until the first of the year - to have regular services; but would preach during the week or on Sunday afternoon for ninety days. The church agreed to Sunday afternoon services.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> letters were granted to Charles Hinson and Joe Lovett to join Buies Creek Baptist Church. On December 23<sup>rd</sup> Vernon Hinson's church letter was moved to Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, N. C. December 9<sup>th</sup> Mildred Meares' church letter was sent to Porter Swamp Baptist Church.

Pastor Lockamy's salary was \$1,100.00. We had 226 church members in 1951 and 169 were enrolled in Sunday School. We had an average attendance of 113. Clauson Edmonds was Sunday School director. Vacation Bible School

enrollment was 118, with an average attendance of 98. Training Union membership was 63. Gordon Hammond was Training Union director. The W.M.U. had 81 members with Victoria Hinson as president. Total contributions for the years was \$2,829.98. We gave \$894.66 to missions.

Ms. E. M. Tart and Ms. Artie Hinson died in 1951.

## 1952

Rev. E. P. Lockamy was pastor in 1952. A church census was taken this year. Charles Hinson was licensed to preach. Jessie Hammond and Curtis Fairfax were elected to replace Clauson Edmonds and Keiver Meares as deacons. Sunday School director was J. C. Edmonds. Training Union director was Wilton Ellis. Victoria Hinson was W.M.U. president. E. M. Barnes was church clerk and Linda Meares was pianist.

The pastor's salary was \$1,100. Total gifts for the years were \$2,793.98. The church had 208 members. 170 were enrolled in Sunday School and 184 in Vacation Bible School. B.T.U. had 76 members and W.M.U. had 72.

Messengers to the Association were Emory Lovett, Clauson and Lounita Edmonds, and Dollie Shelley. Alternates were Keiver and Mary Meares and Beulah Lovett.

On January 27, 1952 the church voted to put a steeple on the church. Clauson Edmonds, French Nobles, Keenon Meares, and A. F. Shelley were appointed to get a carpenter and materials as soon as possible.

Ms. Noley Edwards, Mr. Monroe Hill, Ms. Grettie Shelley and Mr. Vester Edwards died this year.

## 1953

Until October of 1953, when he resigned, Rev. E. P.

Lockamy was pastor. His salary was \$1,683.33. The value of the church property that year was \$15,000.00. The church had 215 members and 200 enrolled in Sunday School with an average attendance of 113. We had 201 enrolled in Vacation Bible School with an average attendance of 138. B.T.U. had 86 members and W.M.U. had 49 members.

1953 was the year that Lea Floyd and Gordon Hammond rotated off the deacons. Ed Barnes was elected to replace them.

Our total local expenses were \$2,928.02. We have \$999.20 to missions. Louola Meares was music director, Linda Meares - pianist, French Nobles - chairman of deacons, K. L. Meares - treasurer, Harold Douglas Hinson - Training Union director, and Victoria Hinson - W.M.U. president.

Messengers to the Columbus Baptist Association were Keenon Meares, Gordon Hammond, C. M. Shelley and Dempsey Hinson. Alternates were the wives of the messengers.

## 1954

On August 15, 1954 Charles Hinson was ordained to the ministry at Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church, nineteen years after his uncle Jasper Hinson, was ordained to the ministry in the same church (but not the same building).

Some pastors who took part in this ordination service were Rev. S. W. Jolly, Rev. R. H. Kelley, Rev. George W. Dowd, Rev. C. E. Brisson, Rev. Donald Keyer, Rev. V. P. Locke, Rev. I. V. Jones and Rev. John R. Blanchard, pastor of Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church.

Deacons from Hinson's Cross Roads who participated were French Nobles, Clauson Edmonds, Keiver Meares and E. M. Barnes. Deacons from Fair Bluff Baptist Church who took part were P. P. Renfrow, Spruill Britt, Charles' uncles Leon



and Willard Small and his great uncle B. H. Small.

The following is a newspaper article about this event:

“Charles Hinson was ordained to the ministry at Hinson’s Cross Roads Baptist Church on Sunday evening, August 15, 1954. On August 8th he had been examined by a council composed of several ministers and deacons from Fair Bluff and Hinson’s Cross Roads churches. On motion of V. P. Locke, seconded by S. W. Jolly, the council voted unanimously that Mr. Hinson be ordained.

The following ministers took part in the ordination services Rev. Jasper Hinson, Charles’ uncles from Holly Hill, S. C. delivered the sermon. Rev. John R. Blanchard, his pastor, gave the charge to the candidate. Rev. John Biddle gave the charge to the church. Rev. B. G. Early led the ordination prayer and presented the Bible to the young minister. Miss. Jane Haywood sang the Lord’s Prayer, after which Rev. Charles Hinson pronounced the benediction.

The young minister has been serving the Fair Bluff church as supply pastor during the summer. He will continue his training at Wake Forest College this fall, and plans to enter Southeastern Seminary on completion of his college work.”

At the same service Fred Hammond and O. C. Jenkins, Sr. were ordained as deacons.

Pastor John Blanchard had served the church only part of the year,. His salary amounted to \$794.60. Whereas the pastor’s annual salary was \$1,924.00

Messengers to the Association in 1954 were Dempsey Hinson, Keenon Meares and Gordon Hammond. It must have worked well to have wives of messengers as alternates in 1953, so that is what the church did again this year.

Our Sunday School superintendent was E. M. Barnes, B.T.U. director - Gordon Hammond, W.M.U. president - Victoria Hinson, church clerk - O. C. Jenkins, music director - Louola Meares, pianist - Linda Meares, and chairman of deacons - French Nobles.

The local expense of the church in 1954 was \$1,766.48. We gave \$813.91 to missions.

Ms. Annie Hinson and Mr. Pittman Jenkins died in church year 1953-54. Also lost to death in 1954 was the young daughter of L. V. and Ruth Reel, Lynda Carol.

## 1955

In 1955 Rev. John R. Blanchard was pastor. His salary was \$1,924.00. We had 213 members of the church. Sunday School had an enrollment of 184 and an average attendance of 114. E. M. Barnes was leader of Sunday School. Vacation Bible School had 133 enrolled with an average attendance of 114. Gordon Hammond was Training Union leader. It had 74 members. There were 44 members of the Woman's Missionary Union under the leadership of Louola Meares. Messengers to the Columbus Association were Keiver Meares, Dempsey Hinson and Jim Reel. Alternates were Ella Jenkins, Eula Nobles and O. C. Jenkins. Church treasurer was Fred Hammond and church clerk was O. C. Jenkins.

We lost to death in church year 1954-55 Byron Meares, Ella Meares, Maggie Nance and Melvin Hinson.

In conference October 9, 1955 a motion was made that Colonel Jenkins, Owen Hammond and Emory Lovett be ordained as deacons. They were ordained October 14<sup>th</sup>. In the same conference Dempsey Hinson, Clauson Edmonds and Gordon Hammond were appointed to see about heat assistance for the sanctuary.

In conference April 3, 1955 a motion was made to turn

the money left in the building fund over to the treasurer. Evidently the church's regular fund must have been getting pretty low. There were times when the treasurer would ask the male members to remain after worship services to make up enough money to pay the preacher.

Ms. Esther Hammond has been known to volunteer to give that money. Although a very quiet person, her feelings for God and His people, especially those of her church, ran very deep.

## 1956

Rev. John R. Blanchard was pastor the full year of 1956. He resigned December 30, 1956 to become effective January 31, 1957. His salary this year was \$1,961.00. Our church membership was 223. Sunday School enrollment, under the leadership of Keiver Meares, was 188 with an average attendance of 112. We had 150 enrolled in Vacation Bible School and had an average attendance of 126. Training Union, directed by Gordon Hammond, had 87 members and an average attendance of 50. The W.M.U., with Nettie Barnes as president, had 50 members.

The church decided to elect four deacons as ushers. They were Ed Barnes, Emory Lovett, Owen Hammond and O. C. Jenkins. Louola Meares was music director, Linda Meares - pianist and E. M. Barnes - chairman of deacons.

In conference on February 12, 1956, the April 13, 1955 minutes were revised to read that the money from the building fund that had been turned over to the treasurer was to be used to repair, replace, or to borrow from for any obligation, but with the understanding that it be replaced in the fall; fall being the time of the year when farmers had money to give.

Members of the committee elected to nominate officers and teachers for church year 1956-57 were Lea Floyd, Owen

Hammond and O. C. Jenkins, Sr.

August 30<sup>th</sup> the church voted to put the building fund back in the budget. Two more Sunday School teachers were elected: Daphane Pridgen for beginners and Inez Hammond for Junior boys. In conference October 17<sup>th</sup>, with E. M. Barnes as moderator, Fred Hammond was elected treasurer and O. C. Jenkins, Sr. as church clerk.

## 1957

On June 9, 1957 the church called Rev. Bob Watson as our pastor. His salary was \$1,543.00. (On March 10<sup>th</sup> the church called Bob as supply for half-time and gave him \$30.00 per week.) We had 218 on the church roll, 188 enrolled in Sunday School with an average attendance of 112; 152 enrolled in Vacation Bible School with an average attendance of 132; 71 members of Training Union and averaged 48. The W.M.U. had 43 members and Brotherhood, which was begun this year, a membership of 24.

Leading in the different organizations were: E. M. Barnes - Sunday School, Emory Lovett - Training Union, Nettie Barnes - W.M.U., Brotherhood - French Nobles, music - Pastor Bob Watson, deacons - French Nobles, O. C. Jenkins was church clerk, Alice Shelley was pianist.

On April 7, 1957 church letters were granted to Rev. and Mrs. John Blanchard to unite with another church. Ernestine Hilbourn Shelley Hickson moved her membership to Riverside Baptist Church, Miami, Florida..

On this date the church voted to borrow \$2,200.00 to install pictures windows in the church.

Messengers to the Columbus Baptist Association were Mamie Hinson, Keenon Meares, and E. M. Barnes. Alternates were Nettie Barnes, Beulah Lovett and Louola Meares.

In conference August 8, 1957 Emory Lovett was

elected to teach the intermediate boys, French Nobles having resigned that position earlier. L. V. Reel was appointed to take care of the building and grounds.

On July 14<sup>th</sup> Rosalee Jenkins, Virginia Shelley, Dempsey Hinson, and Keenon Meares were elected to the nominating committee.

August 18, 1957, E. M. Barnes, moderator, reported that the deacons and Rev. Robert E. Watson met at the Tabor City Baptist Church with a committee from the association for the purpose of questioning Bob before ordaining him to the ministry.

Bob Watson was ordained August 25, 1957. Rev. R. C. Gantt led in prayer. The message was brought by Rev. Charles Hinson. The charge to the candidate was given by Rev. Spurgeon Benton, brother-in-law of Watson. Presentation of the Bible was made by Rev. Gantt, the laying on of hands by deacons and ministers. Joe Lovett sang a hymn. Rev. Robert E. Watson delivered the benediction.

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, with pastor Bob Watson as moderator, French Nobles and Keiver Meares were elected to the deacons as E. M. Barnes rotated off. Fred Hammond was elected treasurer and O. C. Jenkins church clerk.

The church was experiencing the need for more classrooms, so on November 10, 1957 a building committee, consisting of Gordon Hammond, Dempsey Hinson, and Ed Barnes, was appointed.

Ms. Caldonia Meares died in 1857.

1958

Pastor Bob Watson served the church in 1958 with a salary of \$1,924.00. The church had 205 members. There were 175 enrolled in Sunday School and had an average attendance of 105. Training Union had 65 members with an

average attendance of 41. Brotherhood had 50 members, W.M.U. had 52. There were 102 enrolled in Vacation Bible School. The average attendance was 94.

Ms. Carrie Ellis Died. Louonite Edmonds, Juanita Hammond, Betha Hardin, Doris Fairfax and Jane Hinson all transferred their church membership.

May 11, 1958 the church decided to go into a field with Williamsons Cross Roads and share Rev. Watson as pastor. This would permit our church to rent a house for the pastor and his family in Fair Bluff. Our church had worship service first, third and fifth Sunday morning, second and fourth nights.

At this conference, E. M. Barnes, Mamie Hinson and Louola Meares were elected to the nominating committee to select officers and teachers for the church year 1958-59.

The church began using the envelope system for giving. Linda Meares was appointed recording treasurer to keep envelope records.

On July 27th the pastor was authorized to select five members to plan the budget.

October 12th the building committee recommended that the educational building be started as soon as possible, using skilled and volunteer labor. On December 7th the deacons, trustee and building committee met at 9:30 a.m. and decided that the church borrow \$10,000.00 from Scottish Bank to finish the education building. This money was to be repaid in from one to three years. The interest was five percent. The church voted to do this.

Messengers to the Association were French Nobles, Ed Barnes, and Gordon Hammond. Alternates were Keiver Meares, Owen Hammond, and Curtis Fairfax. Organizations and their leaders were: church clerk - O. C. Jenkins, Sunday School - E. M. Barnes, Training Union - Gordon Hammond, W.M.U. Mamie Hinson, Brotherhood - French Nobles, treasurer - Fred Hammond. E. M. Barnes and Curtis Fairfax were elected as deacons.



Local expenses in 1958 were \$3,644.30. The church gave \$941.29 to missions.

## 1959

Rev. Robert Watson resigned in May 1959. A pulpit committee, consisting of French Nobles, Ed Barnes, Mamie Hinson, Victoria Hinson and O. C. Jenkins, was appointed on May 17<sup>th</sup>.

On June 28, 1959 in conference, with French Nobles as moderator, church letters were granted to Rev. and Mrs. Bob Watson to unite with another church. In the same conference a motion was made that we call Rev. Ellis Marks as or pastor. Hinson's Cross Roads joined a field with Piney Forest Baptist Church. A motion was made that the pastor's salary, which was \$40.00 per week be raised \$3.00 per week. Also our church was to give \$25.00 a month on the pastor's house rent and pay \$55.00 moving expense.

During the year Mr. and Mrs. Virgil White moved their membership to Chadbourn Baptist Church, Earl Dean Hinson Harellson to Porter Swamp, and Carolyn Hammond Burchette moved her letter.

In conference March 29<sup>th</sup> the church decided that Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Turner be paid \$365.00 per year to keep the church building clean. We voted to pay \$15.00 per year for crusade advertisement.

On Saturday, April 25, 1959 deacons Ed Barnes, Colonel Jenkins, Owen Hammond, French Nobles, Gordon Hammond and Keiver Meares met and decided to have a called conference the next day to elect two trustees whose term would begin on the following Monday. The trustees were to immediately get legal aid to ascertain the validity of the present deed and take action to defend same. Keiver Meares and Clauson Edmonds were elected.

September 27<sup>th</sup> there was a motion to ordain Francis Floyd as deacon and October 4<sup>th</sup> a motion was made to ordain Henry Jenkins.

On November 1st a \$5,524.00 church budget was adopted. Local expense this year was \$3,709.90. We gave \$1,202.69 to missions. Rev. Mark's salary was \$1,495.00. Value of church property was recorded as \$50,000.00.

Our church membership in 1959 was 205. Sunday School enrollment was 212. The average attendance was 116. Training Union membership was 66 with an average attendance of 46. Brotherhood had 65 members, W.M.U. 55 members, Vacation Bible School enrolled 115.

Messengers to the Columbus Baptist Association were Mamie Hinson, O. C. And Ellene Jenkins, and Ed Barnes. Alternate was Nettie Barnes. Church clerk was O. C. Jenkins, Brotherhood president was E. M. Barnes, Royal Ambassador leader was Francis Floyd, W.M.U. president was Mamie Hinson, treasurer was Fred Hammond, pianist was Alice Shelley and Dorcas Hammond was music director.

## 1960

Rev. Marks continued as pastor in 1960. His salary this years was \$2,080.00. We had 246 members on the church roll. There were 202 enrolled in Sunday School with an average attendance of 105. Training Union had 70 members, averaging 51, 61 in W.M.U.; 46 in Brotherhood and 109 in Vacaton Bible School. At the end of the church year we owed a balance of \$2,750.00 on the educational building. Our local expense for the year was \$7,826.11 and we gave \$621.32 to missions.

Ms. Vera Hammond and Mr. Robert Hammond died this church year. During the year letter were granted to Mr. and Mrs. Austin Shelley, Mary Sarah and Minnie Shelley to join Cherry Grove Baptist Church. Also a letter was granted to

Nell Rose Hinson Lovett to join the Mount View Baptist Church in Charlottesville, Virginia. Ovaline Fairfax's name was dropped to join another denomination.

Messengers to the Columbus Baptist Association in 1960 were Lucille Campbell, Mamie Hinson and Gordon Hammond. Alternates were Ira Campbell, Eula Nobles and Esselle Hammond. Gordon Hammond was church clerk, Ed Barnes - brotherhood director, Francis Floyd - R. A. director, Mamie Hinson - W.M.U. president, K. L. Meares - Sunday School director, Francis Floyd - Training Union director, Dorcas Hammond - music director, and Linda Meares was pianist and financial recording secretary.

Members of the nominating committee were Lucille Campbell, Fred Hammond and Beulah Lovett.

On July 17<sup>th</sup> permission was given to L. V. Reel to make a road around the church. On October 30<sup>th</sup> the church approved a budget of \$5,580.00. E. M. Barnes was appointed usher and Ruth Reel was appointed recording secretary.

## 1961

Church membership was 248, Sunday School enrollment was 198 with an average attendance of 102. B.T.U. had 69 members and averaged 46. There were 48 in W.M.U., 48 in Brotherhood and 104 in Vacation Bible School. Rev. Ellis Marks' salary increased to \$2,340.00 in 1961.

On October 1, 1961 Hinson's Cross Roads observed a special homecoming. We had revival from September 24<sup>th</sup> through Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>. On this Sunday we had a note burning and dedicated the education building to the Lord. Scripture was read by former pastor Rev. E. P. Lockamy. Present pastor, Rev. Ellis L. Marks delivered the sermon, after which the note was burned. Those taking part in the note burning were trustees, building committee, pastor and

treasurer: E. M. Barnes, Dempsey Hinson., Gordon Hammond, Rev. Ellis Marks and Fred Hammond.

Ms. Minnie Strickland and Mr. Haynes Hilbourne (deacon) died during the year. For the first time in our records we see an executive committee elected. The committee consisted of E. M. Barnes and Keiver Meares.

Church messengers to the Columbus Association were Ed Barnes, Colonel Jenkins, Alma Reel and Mamie Hinson. Alternates were Nettie Barnes, Mildred Jenkins, Jim Reel and Alva Hinson.

On January 8<sup>th</sup> the church decided to take a census the first Sunday in February. The church authorize the trustees to sign a right-of-way for road 1004 - today known as Rough and Ready Road.

On August 13<sup>th</sup> Keiver Meares was elected Sunday School director, O. C. Jenkins, Sr. his assistant, Francis Floyd - Training Union director and O. C. Jenkins, Jr. his assistant.

On October 8<sup>th</sup> Ira Campbell and Henry Jenkins were elected as deacons. On October 15<sup>th</sup> a church budget of \$6,687.00 was approved, and it was decided that all used financial envelopes could be destroyed one month after the church year ends.

On November 19<sup>th</sup> a letter granted to Jack Hinson to unite with Emmanuel Baptist Church, Raleigh, N.C., to Mollie Jenkins to unite with Earl St. Baptist Church, Greenville, S.C. On December 12<sup>th</sup> there was a request that Vernon Hinson Hall's name be dropped because she joined the Methodist denomination.

1962

Church membership was 261. Sunday School had 216 enrolled, average attendance was 103. Training Union had 68 members and an average of 42. W.M.U. members were 52,

brotherhood 57 and Vacation Bible School 105.

Messengers to the Association were Colonel and Mildred Jenkins, Ed and Nettie Barnes and Ira Campbell. Alternatives were Gordon and Isabell Hammond and Alma Reel. Organizations and their leaders were: Sunday School - Keiver Meares, Training Union - Ruyland Dudney, music director - Dorcas Hammond, Vacation Bible School director - Evelyn Hilbourne, Executive committee - O. C. Jenkins and Keiver Meares, church clerk - Gordon Hammond, Royal Ambassadors - Fred Hammond.

Local expenses for the church year was \$6,138.19 and we gave \$1,070.29 to missions. Pastor Mark's salary in 1962 was \$2,385.00. A budget of \$ 7,279.50 for the coming year was adopted.

In the July conference the deacons recommended Ed Barnes, Mamie Hinson, and Evelyn Hilbourn as the nominating committee.

On November 18, 1962 the deacons recommended that a closet be built for choir robes at a cost of \$35.00, that a church directory be built at the front of the church at a cost of \$175.00. Ira Campbell, Ed Barnes and Dempsey Hinson were appointed to get the job done. Also it was decided that the building fund money - \$545.00 - be put on interest along with \$769.84 left over from last year's budget, for a total of \$1,314.84.

Fred Hammond and French Nobles were elected as deacons.

## 1963

The year of 1963 was Pastor's Ellis Marks' last year with our church. He resigned December 8<sup>th</sup>. His salary for the years was \$2,600.00. We had 266 church members. Sunday School membership was 221; the average attendance was 114.

Training Union with 93 members averaged 45. W.M.U. membership was 44 and Brotherhood 52. We had 127 enrolled in Vacation Bible School. The church increased as nine people joined by baptism and five joined by letter.

Letters were granted to Ema L. Rogers Schulman and Anna Belle Sarvis Lewis. Afredia Lewis Turner's name was dropped since she joined the Methodist church.

On May 5<sup>th</sup> the deacons recommended that 100 chairs be bought for the education building. On September 30<sup>th</sup> it was recommended that the sanctuary be renovated with heating and air conditioning added. The budget was approved and the chairman of deacons was instructed to contact Piney Forest chairman about the pastor's house rent.

October 10<sup>th</sup> Ira Campbell was elected to replace Curtis Strickland as trustee. A building committee, composed of E. M. Barnes, Ira Campbell and Gordon Hammond was appointed. The finance committee consisted of O. C. Jenkins, Dempsey Hinson, L. V. Reel, Cornie Shelley and Keiver Meares. The wives of both committees were to help select colors for the church. On December 1<sup>st</sup> the building committee brought recommendations for changes in the choir loft, the pulpit and placing of the organ and piano. They asked that the church borrow \$7,500.00 to fund the project.

December 22<sup>nd</sup> E. M. Barnes, Ira Campbell and C. H. Jenkins were named as pulpit search committee.

In January of 1963 the church vote to keep the church doors locked when a service or activity was not going on in the building.

1964

Rev. Ellis Marks served as church pastor until January 12, 1964. Rev. Grady McKeitham was called as pastor March 29, 1964. His salary for this year was 1,980.00. Our church



joined a field with Porter Swamp when Rev. McKeitham came.

Church membership in 1964 was 269; Sunday School enrollment was 192, averaging 106 per Sunday. Training Union had 69 members and averaged 36. Brotherhood had 63 members and Vacation Bible School 76.

A church letter was granted to Ruth Worley April 4 and in the same conference Bible School workers were approved.

On June 28<sup>th</sup> the church insurance was changed from \$30,000.00 to \$55,000.00. \$500 medical and \$25,000 liability was added at a cost of \$204.00 per year.

On September 20<sup>th</sup> a budget for church year 1964-65 of \$7,200.00 was read and approved. The local expense was \$14,424.73, given to missions was \$1,161.79. Total receipts for the year had been \$12,310.20.

Messengers to the Columbus Association were E.M. Barnes, Keiver Meares, and Nettie Barnes. Alternates were O. C. Jenkins Mary Meares and Ella Jenkins. French Nobles and Cornie Shelley were elected to the executive committee. Brotherhood president was Cornie Shelley, R.A. leader was Wilton Ellis; Music Director was Eleanor Edmonds; W.M.U. president was Mamie Hinson; Sunday School superintendent was Keiver Meares; treasurer was O. C. Jenkins; church clerk was Gordon Hammond; pianist was Dorcas Hammond; deacon chairman was E.M. Barnes; Vacation Bible School principal was Mary Meares.

## 1965

Alva Hinson , Sue Blackmon and J. C. Edmonds, who was a deacon, died during the year. In July, Rev. and Mrs. Grady McKeithan were named delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention.

On September 19, 1965 officers and teachers were elected for the church year 1965-66, church letters were

granted to Harry Nobles and Kay Meares Coleman to unite with other churches, and Rev. McKeithen resigned to be effective November 7, 1965.

Our local expense for the year was \$46,574.92 and \$1059.03 was given to missions.

Messengers to the Columbus Baptist Association in 1965 were Mamie Hinson, Alma Reel, O. C. And Ellene Jenkins and Keiver Meares. Alternates were Mary Meares and Gordon Hammond.

## 1966

Rev. Joseph Creech became pastor of Hinson's Cross Roads Baptists in 1966, with a salary that year of \$1,830.00. We had 311 church members, 180 Sunday School members, averaging 100, 66 in Training Union with 28 average, 26 in W.M.U., 27 in Brotherhood and 47 in Bible School.

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> the pastor was authorized to choose the nominating committee. He chose C.H. Jenkins, Mamie Hinson, and Jack Edmonds.

Earl Edwards died this year.

On May 15 the church voted to give \$15.00 to help pay the Chaplin at Columbus county hospital.

Gordon and Fred Hammond were elected active deacons September 18.

Messengers to the Columbus Baptist Association were Ed Barnes, Keiver Meares and Cornie Shelley. Alternates were Alma Reel, Nettie Barnes and Mary Meares. Elected to the executive committee were Ed Barnes and Cornie Shelley. Other leaders were Ed Barnes - Sunday School leader, J.D. Jenkins - Training Union, Eleanor Edmonds - music director, Dorcas Hammond - organist, Suzanne Edmonds - pianist, Jack Edmonds - deacons, Francis Floyd - church clerk and O. C. Jenkins, Jr. - treasurer.

1967

Rev. Joseph Creech resigned as pastor July 23, 1967 to become effective September 30th, to become full-time pastor of Porter Swamp Baptist Church. This left Hinson's Cross Roads in a bind. Most neighboring churches had their own full time pastor and had built pastoriums. The last two churches with which we had formed a field, Piney Forest and Porter Swamp, had pastor's home already built. So on July 30<sup>th</sup> a committee, consisting of French Nobles, Victoria Hinson and Francis Floyd was appointed to work with the deacons to decide on a plan for the coming year; whether to go full time or look for another church with which to form a field. On August 13<sup>th</sup> this planning committee brought to the church the suggestion that we build a pastorium. Members were asked to think and pray about this for one week. August 20<sup>th</sup> the vote was postponed another week. August 27<sup>th</sup> a motion was made and seconded to build. Most members voted to build. A committee to plan, select a floor plan and find a contractor was elected. Ira Campbell, Dempsey Hinson, J. D. Jenkins and L. V. Reel were on the committee.

September 3<sup>rd</sup> the pastorium committee brought floor plans and a picture of the proposed building. Ira Campbell made a motion, seconded by Waldo Hinson, that we get the blueprint and check out the cost of building. On October 4<sup>th</sup> we learned that the three bids on building the pastorium were \$18,000.00, \$16,000.00, and \$14,990.00. The low bid was accepted. A building committee consisting of Cornie Shelley, Ira Campbell, Dempsey Hinson and O. C. Jenkins was appointed. On October 27, 1967 Clyde and Othello Hinson gave the land on which to build a pastorium.

On October 15, 1967 Mamie Hinson, Victoria Hinson, L. V. Reel and Fred Hammond became the pulpit search committee.

On April 30<sup>th</sup> Keiver Meares was elected chairman of the historical committee. He selected E. M. Barnes and Victoria Hinson to serve with him on this committee.

Cornie Shelley, Graham Ellis, and Ruth Reel were members of the nominating committee for the year. Messengers to the Columbus Baptist Association were Keiver and Mary Meares.

## 1968

On June 16, 1968 Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church called its first full time pastor, Rev. Charles Ray Rackey. He was to begin as pastor on August 1<sup>st</sup>, so in a few weeks our people proudly moved the Rackey family into our new pastorium.

This year the pastor's salary amounted to \$1,492.00. It was a partial year; the yearly salary at that time was \$5,900.00. Our church membership totaled 302. Sunday School enrollment was 163 and averaged 93. Training Union had 35 members and averaged 20. Vacation Bible School enrolled 51, W.M.U. had 26 members and Brotherhood 40 members.

On October 27<sup>th</sup> the church approved a budget of \$11,968.00. On December 12<sup>th</sup> the church voted to discontinue having "Charity" and "Children" in the budget. Total receipts for the church year 1967-68 were \$14,905.00. Local expenses was \$4,753.00 and \$988.99 was given to the missions.

Mr. Curtis Strickland and Mr. Napoleon Hewitt died in 1968.

Messengers to the Columbus Baptist Association were Rev. Charles Ray Rackey, Cornie Shelley and French Nobles. Alternates were O. C. Jenkins, C. W. Shelley and J. D. Jenkins.

On April 27, 1969 Rev. Charles Ray Rackey resigned to become effective May 28<sup>th</sup>. On September 28<sup>th</sup> the church called Rev. George White as pastor. The pastor's salary remained \$5,900.00. The value of the church property had risen from \$50,000.00 to \$65,000.00, after the building of the pastorium. The church recorded 256 members in 1969. Sunday School enrollment was 171 with an average of 90. Training Union had 40 members and averaged 15. Vacation Bible School enrolled 40. W.M.U. had 34 members and Brotherhood 43.

At conference January 12, 1969, Jack Edmonds, Sunday School director, explained perfect attendance pins and on February 9<sup>th</sup> Emory and Beulah Lovett received pins for perfect attendance during the past church year. This is the first time perfect attendance pins were mentioned in our records.

In the conference February 9<sup>th</sup> a motion was made that shrubbery be set around the pastorium. The cost was going to be \$206.00, \$100.00 of which had already been donated. The balance would be made by free will offerings. On March 9<sup>th</sup> it was reported that the shrubbery had been set and we lacked \$75.00 having enough to pay for it.

The search committee elected after Rev. Ray Rackey's resignation consisted of J. D. Jenkins, Keiver Meares, Waldo Hinson, O. C., Jr. and Bernice Jenkins. Members of the nominating committee this year were Fannie Lou Cribb, O. C. Jenkins and Graham Ellis. Messengers to the Columbus Baptist Association were French Nobles, E. M. Barnes, Mamie Hinson, Nettie Barnes and Mary Meares.

Ms. Martha Hammond and Mr. Alex Fairfax died in the church year 1968-69.

Total receipts for the year were \$10,927.00 local expenses was \$ 9,672.00 and \$1,792.00 was given to missions. Church clerk was Francis Floyd, music director - Lizzie

Hinson, organist - Dorcas Hammond, pianist - Cathy Haynes, Sunday School director - French Nobles, Training Union director - J. D. Jenkins, Brotherhood president - French Nobles, W.M.U. president - Mamie Hinson, deacon chairman - E. M. Barnes, and treasurer - O. C. Jenkins, Jr.

## 1970

In church year 1969-70, Ms. Ella Jenkins, Mr. Clyde Hinson and Mr. Jessie Hammond died.

Rev. George White was pastor. We had 253 members, 196 in Sunday School and averaged 100, 60 in Training Union and had an average of 33, 40 enrolled in Vacation Bible School, 30 in W.M.U. and 32 in Brotherhood. Total receipts for the year were \$12,120.00. Local expenses was \$11,000.00. We gave \$958.00 to missions.

Church additions during 1969-70 were numerous. On October 5<sup>th</sup> Tony Fairfax was saved and joined the church. On October 6<sup>th</sup> Linda Hinson, Cythnia Haynes, and Carolyn Ellis joined on their profession of faith. On October 7<sup>th</sup> Juanita Meares moved her membership from Oak Dale Baptist, Fairmont, N.C. and Pansy Blanton moved her letter. October 8<sup>th</sup> Helen Hammond and Stevie Greer moved their membership; Helen from Bolling Brook Baptist, Lamont Illinois, and Stevie from Porter Swamp. October 18<sup>th</sup> Jerry and Carolyn Haynes were saved and joined the church. December 6<sup>th</sup> Harry Lee Hinson joined on his profession of faith and Gladys Brown was received by statement. December 27<sup>th</sup> Douglas Edmond was received on his profession of faith and Sue Jenkins moved her membership from the First Baptist Church, Lumberton. N.C.

On December 20<sup>th</sup> chairman of deacons Jack Edmonds called the church into conference to discuss changing the heating system in the education building and paving the



parking lot. The bid for paving the parking lot was \$2,623.50 and for heat and air in the educational building the bid was \$3,692.00. The church would have to borrow \$7,000.00. It was decided that this should be a matter of prayer for a week. Attendance was too low on the 27<sup>th</sup>, it being just after Christmas, so the decision was made to wait another week to vote.

1971

On January 3, 1971 the church voted unanimously to replace the heating system in the educational building with heat and air and to pave the parking lot. On January 10<sup>th</sup> Alex Meares gave his heart to God as the result of Hubert Jenkin's witness.

March 3<sup>rd</sup> it was brought to our attention that we needed new hymnals and that both the organ and piano needed tuning. The church authorized these things to be done. March 21<sup>st</sup> a request was received from Unity Presbyterian Church, Fort Mills, S.C. that Elaine Hinson Rogers' name be dropped since she had joined them.

May 9<sup>th</sup> the church voted to give Rev. White two weeks off because he was sick. June 20<sup>th</sup> a nominating committee was appointed, composed of French Nobles, Ed Barnes and Colonel Jenkins. This committee, on July 27<sup>th</sup>, brought the following nominations: Jack Edmonds to lead the Sunday School, Hubert Jenkins to lead Training Union and Fannie Lou Cribb as W.M.U. president. They were elected.

July 18<sup>th</sup> Carol Fairfax Hinson moved her church letter to our church. In August, Clayton Miller and Anne Hinson were saved and joined the church. In October Allen Hammond, Sherwood Miller, Bernice Hinson, Terry Hinson, Lisa Ellis, Betty Smith, Jenny Smith, Johnnie Meares, Timmie Floyd and Carl Powers were saved; and Linda Wilson Pridgen

moved her membership from Porter Swamp Baptist Church.

Ms. Hannah Shepherd and Ms. Sally Phipps died.

Total receipts for this year was \$14,200.00, local expense was \$20,453.00, a debt of \$2,500.00 was retired and \$843.65 was given to missions. On September 9<sup>th</sup> the church adopted a \$13,105.00 budget for the coming church year.

With Rev White as pastor, we had 267 members in the church. 206 were enrolled in Sunday School, attendance averaged 105. Training Union had 74 members and averaged 45 in attendance. W.M.U. had 64 members and Brotherhood 26.

Rev. White was greatly loved by all Hinson's Cross Roads Church and especially the youth. Before he become our pastor, we were convinced that we had very few young people in our community; but after he came, the youth seemed to come from everywhere. Everyone loved Mr. White but there was something special in his personality that drew the young people to him and to God through him.

1972

In August of 1972, Rev. George White told the church of his plans to retire. E. M. Barnes, Graham and Ada Ellis, Emery Lovett, Ira Campbell and Lucille Miller were elected as pulpit search committee on August 27<sup>th</sup>.

During the year Rachel Cooke Wilson moved her membership to our church, Sharon and Debbie Watts were saved and joined the church. Chris Watts, Marie Meares, Kathy Floyd and Arthur Parish were saved and Shirley Hilbourn Parish moved her membership to our church.

Messengers to the Columbus Baptist Association were Rev. George White, Cornie Shelley and J. D. Jenkins; executive committee - Fred Hammond and O. C. Jenkins, Sr. Other leaders were Sunday School - Graham Ellis, Training

Union - Keiver Meares, W.M.U. - Inez Hammond, church clerk - O. C. Jenkins, Sr., treasurer - O. C. Jenkins, Jr., music - Lizzie Hinson, organist - Jack Edmonds, Jr.

Total receipts for the year were \$13,900.00. Local expense was \$13,600.00, and \$1,084.00 was given to missions. The roof of the educational building was replaced at a cost of \$535.00.

October 15<sup>th</sup> the church voted to authorize the search committee to offer a pastor as much as \$8,180.00 per year. On December 10<sup>th</sup> the church called Rev. Lehmon Hardin as pastor with a salary of \$7,500.00 per year. He began his duties the second Sunday of January 1973.

## 1973

With Rev. Lehmon Hardin as pastor in 1973, the church had 279 member, 184 enrolled in Sunday School with an average attendance of 111. Training Union had 54 members, Vacation Bible School - 66, W.M.U. - 42, and Brotherhood - 49.

Ms. Isabelle Hammond and Mr. Keenon Meares died in 1973. A letter to unite with another church was granted to Ms. Francis Floyd. Also a letter was granted to Susan Miller Nance to unite with Macedonia Baptist Church. At this time it was decided that all outgoing church letters be read and approved in conference before being sent to another church.

On October 28<sup>th</sup> the budget was approved and a committee named to get estimates for remodeling the steeple and porch. Graham Ellis, Waldo Hinson and Ira Campbell served on that committee.

Paid out during the year was \$16,458.00 for local expenses and \$1,139.00 to missions. Messengers to the Association were Keiver and Mary Meares, financial secretary was Elwee Ellis, organist was Jack Edmonds, Jr., Sunday

School director - Graham Ellis, Training Union director - Hubert Jenkins, Brotherhood president - Hubert Jenkins, W. M. U. president - Rosa Lee Jenkins, deacon chairman - Ed Barnes, church clerk - O. C. Jenkins, Sr., and treasurer - O. C. Jenkins, Jr.

## 1974

Rev. Lehmon Hardin resigned as pastor July 15, 1974. The church had 284 members. 186 were enrolled in Sunday School with an average attendance of 95. Training Union had 78 members and averaged 43 in attendance. W.M.U. had 26 members and Brotherhood had 30 members.

Mr. Ed Barnes and Mr. Jim Reel died in 1974.

In conference August 4<sup>th</sup> the church voted that trustees Ira Campbell and Dempsey Hinson select someone to serve in the place of E. M. Barnes. They chose Russell Meares.

On August 11<sup>th</sup> with Emery Lovett as Moderator, a pulpit search committee was elected. Cornie Shelley, Jack Edmonds, Owen Hammond and Graham Ellis were elected.

December 1<sup>st</sup> with Jack Edmonds as moderator, and O. J. Jenkins, Sr. as church clerk, Rev. Tom Dees was called as pastor of Hinson's Cross Baptist Church. He began his service January 1, 1975.

## 1975

Ms. Esther Hammond and Mr. Gordon Lea Meares died in 1975.

On December 28<sup>th</sup> letters were granted to Howard and Lois Hilbourn to untie with Oak Grove Baptist Church, Wilmington. N.C.

Jack Edmonds resigned as organist June 29<sup>th</sup>. At the

same conference a motion was made to put an air conditioner in the pastor's home. The building and grounds committee and Graham Ellis were to take care of this. By August 3<sup>rd</sup> the air conditioner was installed and we learned that the cost was \$1,310.00.

On September 28<sup>th</sup> Graham Ellis presented a request to buy 20 choir robes at the cost of \$20.00 each. The church voted to pay for the robes out of the treasury. On October 26<sup>th</sup> a motion to buy a new organ was made by Mike Reel and seconded by Ira Campbell. Jack Strickland moved that the November 30<sup>th</sup> offering go toward the purchase of the organ. Donnie Hammond seconded Jack's motion.

At the December 28<sup>th</sup> conference the deacons recommended that the old organ be sold to church members with the highest sealed bid. A motion was also made that the church take part in the Foreign Mission Week in February 1977 and pay \$250.00 to the school of missions.

Total receipts for this church year were \$18,063.02; local expense - \$10,379.67, and \$657.00 was given to missions. Messengers to Columbus Baptist Association were Francis Floyd, Alma Reel, Ada Ellis, Elwee Ellis and Juanita Meares.

## 1976

On January 25, 1976, with Rev. Tom Dees as moderator, the church voted to have revival March 21st-28<sup>th</sup> with Rev. Jasper Hinson bringing the messages. It was also decided that the pastor would attend the State Convention.

March 28<sup>th</sup> letter were granted to Mamie Hinson, Walter James and Tine Ellis, Joe Meares and Lavern Leigh requested that their names be dropped since they both had joined another denomination. On December 12<sup>th</sup> Sue Dudley Wilson was granted her letter to unite with Cherry Grove

Baptist Church.

In the June conference the fall revival was planned for the fourth Sunday in September until October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Homecoming was planned for October 3<sup>rd</sup>. At this conference, Mary Meares, Ira Campbell and O. C. Jenkins, Sr. were elected to the nominating committee. On September 19<sup>th</sup> the officers, teachers, and the budget were approved. There was a motion to buy two tables for the fellowship hall. The church voted to ask the pastor and the visiting minister to get their meals at the restaurant during the revival and the church would be responsible for the bill.

L. V. Reel, C. W. Shelley, and O. C. Jenkins, Sr. were elected to serve as deacons.

1977

On August 17, 1977 the deacons of Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church were appointed to by the court as trustees of Meares Community Cemetery. Before the church was established, land for this cemetery had been donated by Miss Rosa C. Meares. She paid \$300.00 to Alfred Meares for "ninety acres more or less" on October 8, 1869. She gave one-half-acre for Meares graveyard. This is referred to in the deed when the land was sold to J. F. Rogers on March 14, 1917. She is referred to on this deed as Rosa C. Stansil. On another deed made October 25, 1943, the land being sold to Waldo and Dempsey Hinson and their wives by A. M. And Bertha Anderson, the land for the cemetery is listed as three-fourths acre.

Until August 1977, there had been very little direction to the use of the Meares Cemetery. Through the efforts of Cornie Shelley and the other deacons, the court granted the control to the church and some rules were adopted regarding the cemetery's future usage.



June 26<sup>th</sup> the church voted to install storm windows on the educational building. Ira Campbell agreed to do the work. It was also decided to put a curb around the basketball court.

September 25<sup>th</sup>, the teachers and officers and the budget were approved. Jack Edmonds and Colonel Jenkins completed their term as deacons. Cornie Shelley and Francis Floyd were elected as their replacements.

## 1978

Rev. Tom Dees told of his retirement plans in February 1978. O. C. Jenkins, Sr., Cornie Shelley, Keiver Meares, French Nobles, and Lance Walters were elected as the pulpit search committee.

August 20<sup>th</sup> the church called Rev. Brancie Stephens as pastor to begin in thirty days. His salary was \$13,100.00 per year. The church voted that when leaving the church, the pastor was to give only a thirty days' notice. The same applies if the church decided to ask him to leave.

Letter were granted in February to Zella and Louvada Hinson to unite with Porter Swamp Baptist Church. In August Rev. and Mrs. Tom Dees asked that their letter be sent to Nebo Baptist Church.

Mr. Donnie Hammond and Mr. Mike Hammond died this year.

Homecoming was held the first Sunday of April. The sexton's salary was raised \$96.00 making it \$1,200.00 a year effective January 1, 1978. The church voted to raise the pay of Herbert Wilson's keeping the cemetery \$50.00 per year making it \$200.00.

In conference November 19<sup>th</sup> it was recommended that cushions be put on the pews, pulpit and choir chairs, that the five adult Sunday School classes elect one member each to select the colors and that we begin a drive to collect the money

by January 28, 1979. 67 members voted in favor of this motion and 17 voted against it.

Deacons who were rotating off this year were Ira Campbell and Graham Ellis; Russell Meares and Lance Walter were elected to replace them. Messengers to the Columbus Baptist association in 1978 were Rev. Brancie and Connie Stephens, Cornie Shelley, Lance Walter, Alma Reel, and Nettie Barnes.

Leaders of the organizations were: music - Graham Ellis, organist - Alice Brown, Sunday School - Graham Ellis, Training Union - Victoria Hinson, W.M.U. - Cindy Miller, deacons - Cornie Shelley, church clerk - O. C. Jenkins, Sr., treasurer - Keiver Meares. Total receipts for the year were \$25,526.00, local expenses \$9,955.00, and given to mission was \$2,483.00

We had 283 church members in 1978, 162 in Sunday School with a 98 average, Training Union had 66 members and averaged 34, Vacation Bible School - 53, W.M.U. -28, and Brotherhood had 21.

Over the years the value of the church property had risen. It was listed as \$145,000.00 in 1978. Our pastor this year was Rev. Brancie Stephens. 34 people were saved and baptized into the church and 11 moved their church membership to our church by letter. Eight people moved their letter to other churches.

Rev. Ray Justice from Trinity Baptist Church led in revival in March. We had homecoming on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

February 11<sup>th</sup> a steering committee for all sports was appointed. Francis Floyd, Russell Meares and Lance Walters comprised the committee.

May 7<sup>th</sup> the church voted to put carpet upstairs in the educational building at a cost of \$2,600.00. We also decided to have the Sanctuary carpet cleaned and stretched.

On July 15<sup>th</sup> the church decided that one must be twelve years old to vote in the church, either about spiritual or

business matters. The motion was made by Jack Strickland and seconded by Emory Lovett. The nominating committee consisting of Ira Campbell, Margaret Shelley and Wilton Ellis was elected.

John Bolin was asked to preach in the fall revival. Since he live so far away - 1,400 miles - the church voted to give him \$125.00

## 1979

Mr. Emory Lovett died December 14, 1979.

The value of the church property is recorded as \$290.00 in 1979. Rev. Brancie Stephens was pastor and we had 287 church members. There were 197 enrolled in Sunday School. The average attendance was 114. Training Union had 104 members with an average attendance of 56. Vacation Bible School enrolled 97, W.M.U. had 24 members and Brotherhood had 49. Total receipts for the year was \$36,250.00, local expenses was \$35,000.00 and we gave \$2,975.15 to missions.

## 1980

The church letter lists these persons as elected leaders in 1980: music - Graham Ellis, youth - Henry Jenkins, organists - Dorcas Hammond and Alice Brown, Sunday School - Cornie Shelley, Training Union - Francis Floyd, Brotherhood - Jack Strickland, W.M.U. - Esselle Hammond, deacons - Graham Ellis, church clerk - Ruth Reel, Treasurer - O. C. Jenkins, Jr., Executive Committee - O. C. Jenkins, Sr. and L. V. Reel, Messengers to the Association - Cornie Shelley, Lucille Campbell, & Dewey Haynes.

On October 12<sup>th</sup> the chairman of deacons presided as the pastor and family left the building because some increases

in the budget concerned them. The budget of \$32,038.00 was adopted by the church. Rev. Brancie Stephens, Russell Meares and Wilton Ellis were appointed messengers to the Baptist State Convention.

Mr. French Nobles died in 1980. In June the church voted to elect the nominating committee by secret ballot. Bedrooms in the pastor's home were carpeted this year. Also this year 32 members were lost by revision of the church roll.

## 1981

Ms. Cleo Hilbourn, Mr. Dougle Miller, Mr. Waldo Hinson and Ms. Loucada Hinson died in 1981. Rev. Brancie Stephen was pastor. There were 284 members of the church. Our Sunday School enrollment was 234 with an average attendance of 117. There were 89 members in Training Union and we averaged 48. 79 were enrolled in Vacation Bible School. Brotherhood had 48 members and W.M.U. had 56.

Our total receipts for the years were \$42,175.07, local expenses totaled \$36,602.54 and we gave \$3,597.79 to missions. Rev. Elmore Strickland led in the spring revival in April.

In the April conference, it was decided to put more insulation in the pastorium attic. At the same conference it was passed that the church pay half of the cost of the youth to go to the retreat. It was also decided that an architect be secured to find the best way to build on the present building for additional Sunday School rooms and a bigger fellowship hall.

During the church year Grace Read moved her church letter from the First Baptist Church in Lenox, Ill. Johnna Dickerson moved her membership from Woodland Baptist Church, and Joyce Hammond joined on profession of faith and baptism.

May 10<sup>th</sup> the pastor requested that the church take part

in the state-wide revival beginning March 14, 1982. Prayer services would be held twenty-hours a day for thirty days prior. One week later Cedar Grove Baptist lost their church building to fire. Our church voted to contribute \$100.00 from the treasury and take up a love offering for our neighbor church. Their loss caused us to re-think our insurance coverage and increase to \$300,000.00.

It seems that the nominating committee composed of Graham Ellis, Ira Campbell and Russell Meares, had a difficult time getting the officers, committees, and teachers roster complete. From reading the minutes, it looks like people kept resigning from offices that had accepted. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, all who would serve were elected and it was stated that we would vote on the replacements when they were secured.

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, Francis Floyd asked for \$175.00 to buy softballs for the team. The church voted to supply the balls.

Homecoming was held October 27, 1981 with Rev. George Berry, pastor of Union Valley Baptist Church preaching. Pastor Stephens was given \$1,084 as a love gift. The replacements on the Sunday School roster were elected.

Francis, Brookie, and Beth Floyd were awarded perfect attendance pins. Rev. Brancie Stephens were elected messengers to the State Convention.

Wayne Hilbourn was saved September 6<sup>th</sup> and baptized in October.

New Drapes were bought for the pastor's home in 1981 at a cost of \$400.00.

## 1982

Rev. Brancie Stephens continue as pastor in 1982, with a salary of \$17,402.00. Church property value was \$440,00.00. There were 264 church members, 209 Sunday School members , averaging 115 in attendance. There were

116 training Union members, 36 in W.M.U.; 46 in Brotherhood, and 78 in Vacation Bible School. There were 68 in the Music department with an average of 48.

Mr. Douglas Hilbourn and Ms. Janie Graham died in June 1982. Mr. Frank Haynes, Mr. Colonel Jenkins, Mr. Benny Earl Haynes and Mr. Howard Hilbourn also died this year.

A request for the letter of Hilda Meares William to be sent to First Baptist Church, Douglasville, Ga. Was granted. We granted letters for Gregg and Carolyn Worthington to unite with New Briton Baptist Church, Ash, N.C. and Elisha Hinson to Tabor City Baptist Church. Kathleen Dudney, who had gone to a church of another denomination returned. We granted the letter of Margo Shelley Amaker to Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama. May 9<sup>th</sup> Ginger Hammond joined the church by statement, and Jerry Wayne Haynes joined on profession of his faith. The letter of Eliner Edmonds was granted to Woodland Baptist Church, Mullins, S.C.

Total receipts for the year were \$41,326.00. Local expenses was 34,493.95 and we gave \$3,962.00 to missions.

Messengers to the Columbus Baptist Association held at Fair Bluff, were Alma Reel, Othello Hinson, and Mettie Barnes. Alternates were Elwee Ellis, O. C. Jenkins and Russell Meares.

A paddle fan was installed in the sanctuary at a cost of \$250.00. Ms. Nell Bruce taught a study course on "Doctrine of the Home" in May. Ruth Reel appointed to head a historical committee to get the church history ready to be microfilmed. Mary Meares and Victoria Hinson also worked on this committee. Jack Strickland was to be head of the tape ministry which is a homebound ministry.

Again this year, the church paid half of the cost of youth who attended the youth retreat. The church had a pictorial directory made this year.



The church was still interested in enlarging the church building. "Together We Build" was discussed on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1982. The proposal was to have a fellowship hall to seat 94, a pastor's study, and kitchen on the bottom floor; two rest room and five Sunday School rooms on the top floor; to be joined to the present building by a walkway. It was agreed that three forth of the money should be raised before beginning to build.

The baptistry was repaired this year. The church voted to pay L. V. Reel \$400.00 per year to take care of the church grounds.

The pastor was elected messenger to the Baptist State Convention. Rev. and Mrs. Stephens and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Strickland attended the Southern Baptist Convention as messengers.

Rev. Stephens asked that the rule that he conduct only two revivals away from church be dropped and that he allowed to conduct as many a he saw fit. There was a great deal of discussion but the request was approved.

On July 18<sup>th</sup> Howell and Susie Strickland joined the church by letter from Spring Branch Baptist. A letter was granted to Betty Miller Tedder to join Hallsboro Baptist Church. Jeff Edwards joined the church on profession of faith.

September 8<sup>th</sup> the deacons asked for authority to use \$200.00 for any emergency church project, such as a home burning, or some other catastrophe.

Russell Meares and Fred Hammond were elected as deacons. Perfect attendance pins were given to Pat and Chuck Spaw, Ruby Floyd, Denise and Michelle Jenkins for one year; Francis, Brookie and Beth Floyd for two years. The pastor presented Certificates for Service to the deacons rotating off the board.

The deacons recommended that nice fall and spring arrangements of flowers be purchased by the church and used in their season, except when an individual wished to purchased one for a special occasion.

The fall revival was held October 31 through November 5, 1982. Rev. Bob Carter from Clarendon Baptist was the visiting minister.

The church bought two speaker and one microphone for the sanctuary at a cost of \$200.00.

## 1983

Rev. Brancie Stephens resigned as pastor of Hinson's cross Roads Baptist Church, March 3, 1983 to be effective March 30th. Rev. Stephens was much loved in the church and community. He was a busy pastor both in the church and in the Columbus Baptist Association. He had been described as a pastor who kept everyone busy. There was always something going on that involved the youth. The young adults were required to help in those activities as well as working with projects relating to the Senior Adults. He always seemed to find things he needed the older adults to do. So all in all, everyone kept active all the time. When there were Associational meeting that the church was to attend, he was always two steps ahead in the planning.

At the end of the church year 1982-83, we were without a pastor. We had 255 church members; 175 enrolled in Sunday School with 109 average, 70 in Training Union, 97 in Vacation Bible School, 38 in the Music department, 18 in W.M.U. and 45 in Brotherhood. Total gifts for the year were \$46,493.00 , and \$3,690.00 was given to missions.

Messengers to the Association were Ira and Lucille Campbell, Lizzie Hinson, Lucille Miller, Harold Hammond and Ginger Hammond.

Ms. Loula Hewitt, Mr. Selma Ellis and Mr. Harry Nobles, Jr. died.

After Rev. Stephens resignation, Ada Ellis agreed to take care of printing the bulletins. The church planned a

going-away dinner for the Stephens family. On March 27<sup>th</sup> Rev. and Mrs. Stephens were presented a plague and a gift of \$1,365.00 from the church.

April 10<sup>th</sup> a pulpit search committee was elected. The committee was composed of Henry Jenkins, Francis Floyd, Graham Ellis, Jack Strickland and Jim Jenkins.

April 17<sup>th</sup> Jack Strickland, chairman of the search committee, asked if the church wanted Sunday night worship services while searching for a pastor. The majority voted yes.

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Hewitt Godwin was called as interim pastor of Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist. His responsibilities were to preach the second and fourth Sunday mornings, the first and third Sunday nights, to lead prayer service twice each month, and visit members in the hospital. His salary was \$100.00 per week. It was also decided that Rev. Godwin treat this pulpit as he would were he not interim, that no one fill the pulpit except as he wishes.

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Jack Strickland resigned a chairman of the search committee, outreach leader and chairman of the nominating committee. L. V. Reel, since he had the next highest number of votes, took Mr. Strickland's place on the pastor search committee.

Members of the executive committee and messengers to the Association met at Trinity Baptist Church to discuss buying an on which to build an Associational building.

The pastorium was repainted inside and outside, the kitchen floor repaired, floor covering in the kitchen and den replaced, and the kitchen sink replaced in 1983. The outside front of the church was also repainted.

Dorcas Hammond, Bernice Jenkins and Ada Ellis were the nominating committee in 1983. Henry Jenkins and Graham Ellis were elected as active deacons. Perfect attendance pins were given to Elwee and Wilton Ellis, Susie Strickland and Lucille Miller for one year, Chuck Spaw and Ruby Floyd for two years, Francis, Brookie and Beth Floyd for

three years and Ruth Strickland for 18 years.

During the year, Beth Small moved her membership to Fair Bluff Baptist, Rev. Brancie, Connie, Conley, and Statia Stephens moved their membership to Bethel Baptist Church, Aiken, S.C., Anne Edmonds to Carthage Baptist, Mike Reel moved to Skycrest Baptist, Clearwater, Florida. In September, Rosa Hammond joined the church on profession of faith, and in October Benjie Jenkins was saved and joined the church. Jack and Faye Strickland moved their membership to Cherry Grove Baptist Church in December.

## 1984

On April 11, 1984 Mark Hammond's name was dropped from the church roll because we had received notice that he had joined another denomination. Randy Hammond, Bessie Hammond, Jennifer Hammond, Chuck Strickland, Tony Strickland, Melissa Floyd, Missy Williams, Robbie Jenkins and Doris Jenkins were baptized. Bobby Edwards made a profession of faith in April but failed to follow up with baptism. Sue Floyd Dickerson joined our church on April 29<sup>th</sup> with the promise of a letter from Woodland Baptist Church. In July a request from letter of Bernice Hinson Prince came from Quniby Baptist Mission, Quniby, S.C. Anita Meares was presented as a candidate for baptism in July and Baptized in September. Dula Leggette moved her letter from Woodland Park Baptist Church, Mullins, S.C.

We were still under the leadership of interim pastor Rev. Hewitt Godwin in the beginning of 1984.

The search committee was having a hard time finding a prospective pastor. They reported on February 20<sup>th</sup> that they had been in touch with eleven men. Four of these had been considered. The only one that felt led to ask to come and preach a trial sermon had decided not to become pastor of our

church. There was much unrest in the church. Some were complaining because Rev. Godwin had not been called as pastor. Not feeling God's leading to do this, the committee members were perplexed. After the chairman of the search committee, Graham Ellis, had explained the work they had done and the way they felt God was leading them. O. C. Jenkins, Jr. asked that a standing vote be taken of those who would support the committee and respect their decision. Rosalee Jenkins made the statement that we should all support the committee one hundred percent. Everyone present stood in support of the committee.

On July 1, 1984 after having heard Rev. Lewis Howard the week before, the church voted to call him as pastor. Eighty-five percent of those present voted to call him and one hundred percent voted to support him.

Bernice Jenkins, Ruth Reel and Wilton Ellis were elected to the nominating committee. O. C. Jenkins, Jr. was chosen as Sunday School leader and Francis Floyd as training Union leader. Messengers to the Columbus Baptist Association were Ferrell and Ginger Hammond, Dewey Haynes and Cornie Shelley.

During the year the sanctuary was repaired and painted. The church gave all of April 22<sup>nd</sup>'s morning offering for the tornado disaster in North Carolina. A bus fund was begun. A bus search committee, composed of Henry Jenkins, O. C. Jenkins, Jr. Roger Hammond and Rev. Lewis, was appointed. A telephone was installed in the church. The pastor's office was carpeted, new drapes hung, two storm doors installed at the pastorium, and a cement walk poured from the front door to the drive. A picture was installed over the baptistry. A storage building was built at the pastorium.

On Sunday night, November 4, 1984, Rev. Lewis Howard was ordained to the ministry at Hinson's Cross Road Baptist Church.

Ms. Ethel Meares died in 1984.



The church had 260 members this year. 170 were enrolled in Sunday School. The average attendance was 110. Training Union had 58 members, W.M.U. had 23, Brotherhood 48, Music 52 and Vacation Bible School had 68 enrolled. Total receipts for the year were \$57,700.00, local expense was \$27,419.00, and \$5,581.00 was given to missions.

We learned from the financial report that at the beginning of 1984, the church had a \$18,779.65 Certificate of Deposit on 9.1% interest, a building fund of \$25,300.36 on 8.94% interest and in our checking account \$8,13.47 on 5.25% interest. The total cash asset of the church was \$52,218.48. We had no idea at the time that God was preparing us to build a fellowship hall where we would celebrate our centennial.

## 1985

In 1986 Rev. Howard was our pastor. We had 278 church members, 190 Sunday School members average 105 per Sunday, 69 Training Union members, averaging 40, 51 in W.M.U., 66 in Brotherhood, 81 in Bible School and 50 in Music.

Lake Floyd, Kelley Floyd and Page Floyd joined Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church this year; Kelley by statement, Lake and Paige on profession of faith. Andy Dudney moved his letter to Cherry Grove and Hubert Jenkins moved his to Porter Swamp.

On April 13, 1986, Chairman of Deacons Ira Campbell related to the church that we could buy the land directly across the road from the church from the Alva Hinson family for \$5,000.00. The only request they made was that if the church ever sold it, that one of the Hinsons be notified and the family be allowed to buy it if they so desire. On November 30, 1986 the church voted to build a fellowship hall on this land. For some reason these plans were put on hold, and it was six more



years before the building was completed. Perhaps 1986 wasn't God's time for us to build a fellowship hall. As we look back on it, everything went so smoothly as we built in 1992, that had to be God's time and His plan.

Total gifts for the church year were \$48,322.00, local expense \$38,519.00 and \$5,524.00 was given to missions. Leaders selected for the coming year were music - Graham Ellis, youth - Bernice Jenkins, organist - Dorcas Hammond, pianist - Cindy Miller, Sunday School - Roger Hammond, Training Union - Graham Ellis, Brotherhood - O. C. Jenkins, Jr., W.M.U. - Inez Hammond, deacons - Ira Campbell, treasurer - James Jenkins, Executive Committee - Dewey Haynes and Cornie Shelley. Messengers to the Columbus Baptist Association were Grey Hinson, Elwee Ellis and Juanita Meares.

In 1986 water from broken pipes damaged the music room floor and the tile had to be replaced. The water pipes were also replaced. A new typewriter was bought this year. Fifth Sunday night Training Union was discontinued. The church voted to participate in the World Missions Conference in January of 1987.

Henry Jenkins, Ada Ellis and Ruth Reel were elected to the nominating committee. The church accepted a donation of \$650.00 from L. V. Reel to replace the church shrubbery. Russell Meares and O. C. Jenkins, Sr., were elected as deacons.

On October 5<sup>th</sup> the church authorized the Building and Grounds committee to repair or replace any vital part of the church without first bringing it to the church for approval. On October 19<sup>th</sup> the church adopted a \$41,280.00 budget.

## 1987

In 1987 church membership stood at 284, Sunday School had 177 members and average 98, Training Union had

61 members and averaged 30, Vacation Bible School enrolled 92, W.M.U. had 34 members, Brotherhood 45 and music 59. Rev. Howard was pastor.

The new property across the road was graded and ditched. The church insurance was changed from Great American to Farm Bureau. The church voted that the recording secretary send out statements once yearly; the first of the year, so they could be used for income tax purposes. A Constitution and By-laws committee was elected. They were Cornie Shelley, Graham Ellis, Susie Strickland, O. C. Jenkins, Jr., and Ruth Reel.

Nominating committee this year consisted of Roger Hammond, O. C. Jenkins, and Margaret Shelley. Graham Ellis and Henry Jenkins were elected as deacons. A budget of \$41,760.00 was adopted.

## 1988

In 1988 Rev. Lewis Howard was pastor. The church had 282 members. Sunday School had 172 members and averaged 87, Training Union had 32 members and averaged 16, Vacation Bible School enrolled 82, W.M.U. had 30 members, Brotherhood 22, and Music 47.

A timer was installed on the heating-cooling system at a cost of \$300.00 and a microwave oven bought for the kitchen.

Ira Campbell resigned from the board of trustees and was replaced by O. C. Jenkins, Sr. Lizzie and Ronnie Hinson donated land for a road around the cemetery.

Mr. Devine Meares, Ms. Grace Reed and Mr. Gordon Hammond died.

The parking lot and the north-west walk were replaced at a cost of \$3,500.00. Letters were written to local funeral homes to tell that Hinson's Cross Roads deacons had been

entrusted the responsibility of managing the Meares Community Cemetery and must be consulted about burial sites.

The Nominating Committee consisted of Bernice Jenkins, Dorcas Hammond and Lucille Miller. Messengers to the Columbus Baptist Association were L. V. Reel, Graham and Ada Ellis and Cornie Shelley.

The proposed budget of \$42,3800.00 was approved. At the end of the year we learned that the church's total cash assets were \$96,180.66

## 1989

Pastor Lewis Howard resigned April 9, 1989. The search committee elected was composed of Henry Jenkins, Roger Hammond, Cornie Shelley, Cindy Miller and L. V. Reel.

Letters were granted to Thomasboro Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C. for Rev. Lewis Howard, Carolyn Howard and Brian Howard. Clara Ellis moved her letter to Good Hope Baptist Church, Conway, S.C.

Mr. Joe Tuberville, Ms. Ruth Fairfax, Ms. Agnes Haynes, Ms. Esselle Hammond and Ms. Carolyn Haynes died this year.

New robes were purchased for the youth choir at a cost of \$1,500.00. The church bought a copier and also donated \$1,000 to the Hugo Disaster Fund.

Total gifts for the year were \$51,753.00. Local expense was \$38,0750.00 and \$5,917.60 was given to missions.

The Search Committee asked for and received permission to offer a pastor \$28,000.00 per year.

The church called Rev. Claire Baker as interim pastor, July 2, 1989 and gave him \$200.00 per week.

On August 13<sup>rd</sup> Annie Mae Hammond, Ruth Strickland

and Norlie Meares were elected by acclamation to the nominating committee. Messengers to the Columbus Baptist Association were Dewey Haynes, Lucille and Ira Campbell, Graham Ellis and Cornie Shelley.

We learned that the total cash assets of the church were \$103,930.78. God was giving the money for the fellowship hall.

Ira Campbell and L. V. Reel were elected as deacons.

## 1990

On May 27, 1990, Rev Earl Brooks was called as pastor of Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church. On June 10<sup>th</sup> the church had a special service to celebrate the transition of leadership from Rev. Baker to Rev. Brooks and the service was followed by a dinner on the grounds. Vacation Bible School was held the following week with 66 enrolling.

The church roof was replaced by Barnes and Barnes this year at a cost of \$3,675.00. We gave \$2,000.00 toward the cost of the Associational Building.

Shelley Todd's and Ramona Todd's names were dropped from the church roll at the request of Fair Bluff Methodist Church. Margaret Bullock Hammond moved her membership to the Spring Branch Baptist Church.

Flower arrangements were put back into the budget by vote of the church.

In July 1990 a survey was made asking each family of the church if they wanted to build a fellowship hall. Other question asked were when we wanted to build and what size building we wanted. The survey revealed that most wanted to begin the building as soon as possible and most wanted to be able to seat 200.

The church voted in November to participate in the World Missions Conference January 19<sup>th</sup> through 25<sup>th</sup>, 1991.

We also voted to construct a 36' by 80' fellowship building. The elected building committee consisted of O. C. Jenkins, Jr., chairman, L. V. Reel, Graham Ellis and Terrell Ellis.

The church approved the motion of Cornie Shelley and a music system was purchased to be used to record service for shut-ins, as well as to be used to play music during church services.

Ms. Dula Leggette, Ms. Vera Meares, Ms. Alice Brown, Mr. Shewood Miller and Mr. J. D. Jenkins died this year.

The financial report given April 29<sup>th</sup> revealed that the church's cash asset were \$118,754.81. Total gifts for the year were \$51,676.00, local expense \$43,940.00 and \$8,393.00 was given to missions.

Messengers to the Columbus Baptist Association were Ira and Lucille Campbell, Marilyn Brooks, Grey Hinson, Norlie Meares and Margaret Shelley. The nominating committee consisted of Inez Hammond, Bernice Jenkins and Lucille Miller.

We had 273 church members, 133 in Sunday School with an average attendance of 75, 44 in Training Union with an average of 21 in W.M.U., 13 in Brotherhood and 32 in music.

1991

On October 6, 1991, Harold Cribb was ordained as deacon. Those on the questioning committee were Francis Floyd, Ira Campbell, L. V. Reel, Russell Meares, Roger Hammond, Fred Hammond, Wilton Ellis, Graham Ellis, Henry Jenkins and Pastor Earl Brooks. Francis Floyd, chairman of deacons, brought to the church the results of the questioning and the decision of the committee to proceed with the ordination. The charge to the deacon and the church was given by Dane Hammond, Graham Ellis and Francis Floyd.

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> the building committee asked the church to think and pray one week about the plague bearing the names of people who had faithfully served the church, being placed in the fellowship hall. Anyone would be able to have a name placed on the plague for a donation of \$500.00. The following Sunday the church voted to use the plague at \$500.00 per name, with this donation going toward the cost of the building.

On September 30, 1991 a ground-breaking ceremony was held on the site where the fellowship building was to be built.

On March 24, 1991 the church voted to make guideline for taking love offering. When a church member or a member of his family is in a major hospital fifty miles from home for ten day, taking an offering would be announced one Sunday and receive the next.

The church bus was sold to Cerro Gordo Baptist Church with the proceed going toward the fellowship hall..

The nominating committee this year had four members because two people tied in number of votes. The members were Graham Ellis, Lucille Miller, Elwee Ellis and Bernice Jenkins. Messengers to the Association were Cornie Shelley, Norlie Meares, Marilyn Brooks, C. W. And Margaret Shelley.

On December 22, 1991 the church approved a motion to buy new hymnals at a cost of \$830.00-\$840.00.

With Rev. Earl Brooks as pastor, the church had 277 members. There were 140 Sunday School members with an average attendance of 71. Training Union had 33 members with an average attendance of 27. There were 58 enrolled in Vacation Bible School, 35 in W.M.U., 13 in Brotherhood and 35 in music.

1992



With Pastor Brooks still leading, the church in 1992 had 273 members. 134 were enrolled in Sunday School with an average attendance of 67. There were 34 Training Union members averaging 18. There were 21 in W.M.U., 13 in Brotherhood, 45 in music, and 69 in Bible School.

Total gifts for the year were \$77,800.00, local expenses was \$177,978.00 (this included the building and furnishing of the fellowship hall) and we gave \$4,706.00 to missions.

Tracey, Marilyn and Leanne Floyd died in 1992.

On January 26<sup>th</sup> the church voted to change Sunday School literature from Bible Book series to Life and Works series for six months.

Sherry Shelley Williamson moved her membership to Macedonia Baptist Church in August. In September Terrell and Shelia Ellis moved their membership to Fair Bluff Baptist. In November Lisa Hinson Bass joined Baltimore Baptist, Fairmont, N.C. and Jason Meares united with Mt. Gilead Baptist in Pittsboro, N.C.

With the building of the fellowship hall well on it's way, in May the church appointed the organist, the pastor and the building committee to plan the dedication service.

We bought a water softing system for the church and gave an offering to the victims of hurricane Andrew.

On March 1<sup>st</sup> we dedicated our new hymnals. On April 19<sup>th</sup> a love offering was taken for Lousie Miller.

Dedication of the new building was planned for October 4, 1992. A committee consisting of L. V. Reel, Cornie Shelley, O. C. Jenkins, Jr., Dorcas Hammond and Margaret Shelley, was appointed to plan guidelines for the use of the fellowship hall. These plans were approved November 29<sup>th</sup>.

On July 5<sup>th</sup> the church voted to return to the Bible Book series literature in Sunday School. On August 9<sup>th</sup> it was decided that Margaret Shelley could use the sanctuary flower arrangement to take to members who were sick.

The nominating committee members were Bernice Jenkins, Lucille Miller and Cornie Shelley. Messengers to the Columbus Baptist Association were L. V. Reel, Cornie Shelley, Norlie Meares, Marilyn Brooks, Lucille and Ira Campbell.

The climax of 1992 was the dedication of our long awaited fellowship building. A former pastor, Rev. Brancie Stephens, preached the dedication-homecoming sermon. The church was packed with present and past members, as well as visitors, although the weather was very rainy. After the worship service, everyone went across the road to the fellowship hall where member eighty years old and above cut the ribbons. Inside the pastor, Rev. Earl Brooks and building committee chairman, O. C. Jenkins, Jr., gave the welcoming remarks. Chairman of deacons, Francis Floyd read from the Bible. The pastor led in a responsive reading and the dedication prayer. The new building was filled to overflowing as were our hearts with gratitude to God for our building and His leadership in our getting it at the right time.

When the financial report on November 29<sup>th</sup> revealed that our cash assets were \$24,951.12, our thanks to God overflowed again. Our building was completed and furnished and we were still in good shape financially. When we let God lead, did things His way in His time, all went well.

In December a budget of \$47,995.00 was adopted.

It should be noted that along with the building committee, that pastor, Rev. Earl Brooks did much work toward getting the fellowship hall started and completed. He challenged the members to get started in planning to build. He made many trips finding materials needed and did a great deal of actual work on the building. His dedication was an inspiration to others and helped keep the morale on a high note.

Mr. George Miller, deacon Keiver Meares, Mr. Shep Hilbourn, and Mr. Jerry Haynes died in 1993. In this year a covered ramp was built at the rear of the church.

March 31<sup>st</sup> we heard a report that told us the total cost of the fellowship hall and its furnishing was \$134,952.43. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of March we proudly shared our building as the annual spring meeting of the Columbus Baptist Association met there.

In July, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, the church had a dinner of turkey, fried chicken, ham and all the fixens catered. Church members furnished dessert. This was designed a high attendance Sunday.

The nominating committee this year consisted of Regina Todd, Cornie Shelley and Lucille Miller. In September Earl Redwine and L. V. Reel were elected deacons by acclamation.

Earl Redwine was ordained on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Roger Hammond, Harold Cribb, L. V. Reel, Henry Jenkins, Cornie Shelley, Owen Hammond, Wilton Ellis, Dane Hammond and Graham Ellis were the deacons present for the questioning and the ordination. Rev. Earl Brooks, pastor was present. Rev. Tim Moore, pastor of Porter Swamp Baptist Church, brought the charge to the deacons.

Messengers to the Columbus Baptist Association, held at Tabor City Baptist Church, were Rev. Earl and Marilyn Brooks, L. V. and Ruth Reel and Cornie Shelley. Flag bearers in the W.M.U. program were Inez Hammond and Marilyn Brooks.

The church sent \$150.00 to help build a chapel in Brazil, and also help bear the pastor's expense for the long trip to his mother's funeral.

O. C. Jenkins, Jr., church treasurer, was authorized to purchase a file cabinet to store church record at his home.

The treasurer's report in October showed the church

cash assets to be \$51,893.00. Total gifts this year were \$58,752.00. Local expense was \$51,405.00 and \$5,748.00 was given to missions.

In 1993 the church had a total membership of 270. Sunday School had 140 with an average attendance of 65. Training Union numbered 36 and averaged 17. Vacation Bible School enrolled 56, music 45, brotherhood 13 and W.M.U. 12.

Kevin and Christopher Weatherford became members of the church on profession of faith this year.

Plans were begun in November of 1993 to install new carpet in the vestibule, sanctuary, and the two small rooms that adjoin the education building. Harold and Fannie Lou Cribb, Henry and Doris Jenkins, O. C., Jr. and Bernice Jenkins, Dorcas Hammond, Cornie Shelley and L. V. Reel were appointed to select the colors.

We observed our first hanging of the green December 5, 1993.

## 1994

On February 17, 1994 Rev. Earl Brooks resigned as pastor of Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church to be effective March 20<sup>th</sup>. He became pastor of Pinecrest Baptist Church, Andrews, S. C.

Rev. Clair Baker conducted a revival March 17-20, 1994. April 4<sup>th</sup> the church voted to call Rev. Baker as interim pastor.

Deacon Ira Campbell, Ms. Bessie Tuberville. Ms. Louise Miller and Ms. Grey Hinson died in 1994.

This year Dowless of Clarkton catered a Valentine Banquet. Our new Baldwin piano was in use, the new carpet was installed and a new Rogers organ brought. The organ and piano were dedicated November 27<sup>th</sup>.

We sent \$500.00 to the Red Cross for victims of the

California earthquake and \$200.00 to be used by the disaster van for Georgia flood victims.

Those who were elected to search for a new pastor were L. V. Reel, Henry Jenkins, Cornie Shelley, Fannie Lou Cribb and Bernice Jenkins. On November 1<sup>st</sup> these and their spouses met wit a prospective pastor, Rev. Billy Stines and his wife, Susan, from Hallsboro. On November 6<sup>th</sup> the deacons and search met to discuss plans ad finances for the next pastor. November 13<sup>th</sup> the committee heard Rev. Stines at Hallsboro Baptist Church. In December, at the annual Brotherhood ladies night, Rev. Stines was the speaker. Later in the month, the Stines toured the pastorium. Sounds like Hinson's Cross Roads is interested in calling Rev. Stines, doesn't it? The answer to this will be found next year.

In 1994 he had 264 church members, 131 Sunday School members and averaged 63 in attendance, 36 Training Union members and averaged 12, 57 in music, 15 in W.M.U., 12 in brotherhood and 56 in Vacation Bible School.

A Historical and Centennial Celebration Planning Committee was appointed July 24, 1994. Members were Graham Ellis, Mary Meares, Dorcas Hammond, Regina Todd, and Ruth Reel. This committee began to work immediately thinking they had four months to prepare for the centennial. As has been explained earlier, upon investigating in written records, it was learned that we were planning three years too early.

The nominating committee this year was composed of Wilton Ellis, Brookie Redwine and Ruth Reel. Deacons elected were Wilton Ellis, Roger Hammond and Russell Meares.

We had our second Hanging of the Greens December 14<sup>th</sup>. On the 18<sup>th</sup> we had a beautiful Christmas Cantata in the morning and the Christmas play in the evening. We also observed Sunday School High Attendance that day.

The church participated in the John Wesley White



Columbus County Crusade. Dr. Wesley was a member of the Billy Graham Evangelistic team. Those who agreed to help were Graham and Ada Ellis, Wilton and Elwee Ellis, Francis Floyd and Cornie Shelley.

On October 23, 1994 a budget of \$52,453.00 was adopted. Our total cash assets were \$24,801.27. Our total receipts for the year were \$69,100.00. Local expense was \$47,400.00 and gifts to missions were \$6,392.00.

## 1995

On January 15, 1995 Rev. Billy Stines preached a trial sermon at Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church. On January 22nd the church unanimously voted to call Rev. Stines as our pastor.

A dinner celebrated another transition with Rev. Clair Baker participating, with his leaving and the beginning of a new partnership with a new pastor, Rev. Stines. Rev. Stines and wife, Susan, moved their membership March 5<sup>th</sup>. Sons, Jeffrey and Bryan joined the church on their profession of faith. They were baptized April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Jessica Hammond had been baptized November 20, 1994. Joe and Nell Lovett moved their letter to Hinson's Cross Roads April 9, 1995.

Richard, Cindy, Andrea, and Lori Miller moved their membership to Cerro Gordo Baptist Church in October 1994. Johanna Dickerson Stump moved her letter to Porter Swamp Baptist church in January 1995. Carlton and Susie Brown and Tonya Brown Fairfax united with Evergreen Baptist in February. Brian Jenkins united with Trinity also in February. Lisa Ellis Hobbs and Holly Power Williamson moved their membership to Faith and Macedonia. Margie and Faith Hammond asked for their letter to unite with Cerro Gordo Baptist Church.



Nominating committee elected members were Dane Hammond, Fannie Lou Cribb and Nancy Weatherford. Re-elected as deacons were Francis Floyd and Henry Jenkins. Messengers to the Columbus Baptist Association were Norlie Meares, Cornie and Emeret Shelley, L. V. And Ruth Reel.

Adam Garnett Redwine, newborn son of Earl and Brookie Redwine, was dedicated in February by Rev. Claire Baker, who has performed the wedding ceremony of the parents in May of 1990.

In 1995 we had 258 church members, 115 in Sunday School and averaged 63 in attendance, 49 in Vacation Bible School, 26 in Training Union, 5 in W.M.U., 34 in music, and 12 in Brotherhood. Total gifts for the year were \$55,094.00, \$48,350.00 was spent locally and \$7,124.00 given to missions.

Deacons Fred Hammond and Ms. Ruby Floyd died in 1995.

## 1996

With Rev. Billy Stines as pastor, the church had 250 members in 1996. We had 118 enrolled in Sunday School with and average attendance of 58. Discipleship Training had 28 enrolled, the music department had 23, Brotherhood 13 and 68 were enrolled in Vacation Bible School.

Total receipts for the year were \$72,733.00. Our local expenses was \$49,700.00. We gave \$5,039.00 to missions.

In March the youth present a drama "The Three Nails." The cast was composed of Jeffery Stines, Amy Brown, Christopher Weatherford, Bryan Stines, Kevin Weatherford, Robert Hammond, Jessica Hammond, Christopher Hammond and Kimberly Todd. The same night we had a song service. Soloist were Russell Meares, Billy Stines, and Earl Redwine, Grethe Hammond, her sister and family from Norway sang and the choir sang several selection. Graham and Ada Ellis'

daughter and son-in-law sung, as well as a granddaughter performed a "mine." All this happened after a delicious meal of barbeque chicken.

On February 5<sup>th</sup> older members of the church were invited to a dinner and history meeting. After the meal guest discussed things they remembered or had heard about the early days of the church.

During the year a new pump was put down at the church and a new well at the pastor's home.

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, when Senior Adult Day was observed with a catered dinner, forty-four were present.

Ms. Othello Hinson and Ms. Polly Meares died in 1996. Earl, Genieve, and Shannon Wilson moved their church membership to Oak Dale Baptist Church, Joy Reel united with Colonial Baptist Church, Raleigh, N.C. Patrick Wilson moved his letter to Porter Swamp Baptist Church. Ginger Hammond asked for her letter to be sent to Cerro Gordo Baptist Church.

Robert Hammond joined the church on profession of faith and was baptized July 7<sup>th</sup>, Beverly Norris Hinson joined Hinson's Cross Roads moving her membership from Cedar Grove.

Men's Day was observed January 28<sup>th</sup>. Earl Redwine, Dane Hammond and Norlie Meares were speakers. Wilton Ellis led children's church. Woman's day was observed in February with Ruth Reel, Ruth Strickland and Susan Stines sharing from God's Word. Youth Sunday was held in March with the youth and young adults helping with the service.

The nominating committee was composed of Lucille Miller, Bernice Jenkins and Cornie Shelley. Messengers to the Columbus Baptist Association were Rev. Billy Stines, Mary Meares and Wilton Ellis. Dane Hammond and Graham Ellis were elected as deacons. We had a dedication service for all the new officers, teachers, and committees of the church on the first Sunday of October.

November 9<sup>th</sup> we had our annual fish fry with an abundance of spots and flounder.

The Hanging of the Greens was observed December 1, 1996. A Christmas Cantata was presented by the adult choir, as well as a drama by the youth and children in December.

## 1997

This written history is being completed near the end of 1996, so at this point we cannot say what actually will happen in 1997.

Those who are expected to lead us through the new year had been elected, including the people who will play a vital part in our centennial celebration.

We are expecting our pastor, Rev. Billy Stines to be God's shepherd for us this year and many years to come. We have loved and appreciated all our former pastors, but Rev. Stines is the most humble leader we have ever had. He puts himself down among us and makes us feel like he is a part of our family; yet he is energetic and busy in every phase of church life. We can tell by his preaching and teaching that he spends many hours in touch with God and that he is yielded to God's Holy Spirit. We truly hope God leaves him with us for a very long time.

For this church year Ruth Reel is church clerk, O. C. Jenkins, Jr., is treasurer, and Lucille Miller is recording secretary. Worship leaders are Graham Ellis and Earl Redwine. The music committee consists of Dorcas Hammond and Chuck Strickland - accompanist, choir director adult - Dorcas Hammond, youth - Billy Stines, children - Regina Todd and Elwee Ellis.

Building and ground committee consists of Cornie Shelley - chairman, Harold Cribb, O. C. Jenkins, Sr., Henry Jenkins, L. V. Reel and Tony Todd.

Those on the hospitality committee are: Fannie Lou Cribb - chairperson, Harold Cribb, Rosa Hammond, Bernice Jenkins, Doris and Henry Jenkins, Chuck and Pat Spaw and L. V. Reel.

Evelyn Hilbourn and Margaret Shelley are the bereavement meal telephone committee.

Taking care of the sanctuary flower arrangements is Lucille Campbell. C. W. Shelley is in charge of the church bell. Baptism committee consists of Elwee and Wilton Ellis and Helen and Dane Hammond.

The Lord's Supper preparation committee is composed of Lucille Campbell, Chuck and Pat Spaw.

Usher chairperson is Henry Jenkins. Those he directs are Doug Brown, Graham Ellis II, Gregg Hammond, John C. Meares, Bryan Stines, Kevin Weatherford, James Bullard, Dane Hammond, Owen Hammond, Russell Meares, Jeffrey Stines, Michael Weatherford, Harold Cribb, Harold Hammond, Roger Hammond, Chuck Spaw and Chris Weatherford.

Planning and directing the Christmas program will be Dorcas Hammond, Nancy Weatherford, Regina Todd, and Chuck Strickland. Leaders in the children's ministry are Nancy Weatherford, Susan Stines and Regina Todd. Members of the Associational Executive committee are L. V. Reel and Cornie Shelley.

Sunday School officers and teachers: director - Earl Redwine, associate - Harold Hammond, pianist - Chuck Strickland, secretary - L. V. Reel, associate - Henry Jenkins, auditor - Harold Cribb, associate - Russell Meares, outreach director - Victoria Hinson, homebound - Ruth Reel, nursery - Brookie Redwine, Verna Lee Floyd and Helen Hammond, preschool - Ada Ellis and Juanita Meares, Children A (Grades K-3)- Bernice Jenkins and Alice Meares, Children B (Grades 4-6) - Elwee Ellis and Nancy Weatherford, youth - Wilton Ellis and Chuck Strickland, young adults - Susan and Billy Stines, couple I - Cornie Shelley and Lucille Miller, couples II - Dane

Hammond and Francis Floyd, adult men - James Bullard and Norlie Meares, adult ladies I - Mary Meares and Brookie Redwine, adult ladies II - Sue Dickerson and Inez Hammond.

In Vacation Bible School Regina Todd will be principle, Doris Jenkins - secretary and Dorcas Hammond will direct the music.

Discipleship Training has Chuck Spaw as director, Norlie Meares as associate and secretary. Susan Stines will lead the youth.

Deacons are chairman - Francis Floyd, Wilton Ellis, Russell Meares, Roger Hammond, Henry Jenkins, Dane Hammond and Graham Ellis.

Of course by the time this is printed we will be in the process of selecting new officers, teacher, and deacons.

One November 9, 1997 we hope to be celebrating our centennial with Rev Charles Hinson bringing the message entitled, "The Moving of Time," based upon I Samuel 7:10-13. Charles was born and reared within sight of the church. The pastor's home is located on land given by his parents, Clyde and Othello Hinson. The day planned for the centennial will be Charles' 65<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Our Centennial and History committee is composed of Ruth Reel - chairperson, Graham Ellis, Mary Meares, Dorcas Hammond and Regina Todd. Their duties are to oversee the celebration, prepare and write the history, prepare the celebration program, and make recommendations to the church regarding the centennial.

Mary Meares and Inez Hammond will take care of the invitations and guest list, address and mail the invitations and take care of pictures and displays. This committee will need a lot of help in some of these areas.

The Hospitality committee listed above will take care of the food, the eating area and all things associated.

Dane and Helen Hammond, Roger Hammond, Harold Cribb, Sue Dickerson and Regina Todd will be the welcoming

committee and will be taking care of the name tags, directions of guest and related events.

Lucille Campbell and Annie Mae Hammond are in charge of making the church building look its best.

The publicity committee is made up of Susan Stines and Alice Meares, who will write and arrange for publication of announcements concerning the event.

Those who will direct the clean-up after the celebration are L. V. Reel, Doug Brown, Michael Weatherford and Graham Ellis, II.

All of these committees will need much help from the rest of the church. We have cooperated well during the first one hundred years. Although we have had our ups and downs, have not always agreed, and have failed to be perfect examples to the lost many times, with the help of God we have seen out mistakes and have sought His forgiveness.

We hope to begin our second hundred with humility and hope; humble because in the presence of God we feel our nothingness, even as Isaiah did. With hope because he recognizes our potential and is willing to forgive us and give us another chance to glorify Him, to lift Him up that the community around us and of which we are a part, may see Him instead of us and be drawn to Him.



Leadership  
of  
Hinson's Cross Roads Baptist Church  
down through the Years

YEAR	PASTOR	CLERK
1903	N/A	C. W. Shelley
1904	no report	C. W. Shelley
1905	Masis Pridgen	C. W. Shelley
1906	C. Stanley	C. W. Shelley
1907	C. Stanley	C. W. Shelley
1908	C. Stanley	C. W. Shelley
1909	C. Stanley	C. W. Shelley
1910	C. Stanley	C. W. Shelley
1911	C. Stanley	C. W. Shelley
1912	C. Stanley	C. W. Shelley
1913	C. Stanley	C. W. Shelley
1914	C. Stanley	C. W. Shelley
1915	C. Stanley	N/A
1916	C. Stanley	G. J. Hammond
1917	C. Stanley	G. J. Hammond
1918	C. Stanley	G. J. Hammond
1920	C. Stanley	G. J. Hammond
1921	W. A. Coleman	G. J. Hammond
1922	C. Stanley	C. M. Hammond
1923	C. Stanley	C. M. Hammond
1924	C. Stanley	C. M. Hammond
1925	C. Stanley	C. M. Hammond
1926	C. Stanley	C. M. Hammond
1927	C. Stanley	C. M. Hammond
1928	C. Stanley	C. M. Hammond
1929	C. Stanley	C. M. Hammond
1930	Ira Britt	C. M. Hammond
1931	I. F Britt	C. M. Hammond
1932	I. F. Britt	C. M. Hammond
1933	I. F. Britt	C. M. Hammond
1934	I. F. Britt / Cade Deaver	C. M. Hammond
1935	Cade Deaver	Jasper Hinson
1936	Cade Deaver	Jasper Hinson

YEAR	PASTOR	CLERK
1937	Cade Deaver	Jasper Hinson
1938	Cade Deaver	Jasper Hinson
1939	Cade Deaver	Keiver Meares
1940	Cade Deaver	Keiver Meares
1941	Paul Britt	Keiver Meares
1942	Paul Britt	C. W. Shelley
1943	Jasper Hinson	C. W. Shelley
1944	B. G. Early	C. W. Shelley
1945	B. G. Early	C. W. Shelley
1946	G. B. Early	C. M. Hammond
1947	B. G. Early	C. M. Hammond
1948	B. G. Bass	N/A
1949	R. C. Melton	E. M. Barnes
1950	R. C. Melton	E. M. Barnes
1951	E. P. Lockamy	E. M. Barnes
1952	E. P. Lockamy	E. M. Barnes
1953	E. P. Lockamy	E. M. Barnes
1954	John Blanchard	O. C. Jenkins, Sr.
1955	John Blanchard	O. C. Jenkins, Sr.
1956	John Blanchard	O. C. Jenkins, Sr.
1957	Robert Watson	O. C. Jenkins, Sr.
1958	Robert Watson	O. C. Jenkins, Sr.
1959	Ellis Marks	Gordon Hammond
1960	Ellis Marks	Gordon Hammond
1061	Ellis Marks	Gordon Hammond
1962	Ellis Marks	Gordon Hammond
1963	Ellis Marks	Gordon Hammond
1964	Grady McKeithan	Gordon Hammond
1965	Gardy McKeithan	Gordon Hammond
1966	Joseph Creech	Francis Floyd
1967	N/A	Francis Floyd
1968	Charles Ray Rackley	Francis Floyd
1969	George White	Francis Floyd

YEAR	PASTOR	CLERK
1970	George White	L. V. Reel
1971	George White	L. V. Reel
1972	George White	O. C. Jenkins, Sr.
1973	L. D. Hardin	O. C. Jenkins, Sr.
1974	N/A	O. C. Jenkins, Sr.
1975	Tom Dees	O. C. Jenkins, Sr.
1976	Tom Dees	O. C. Jenkins, Sr.
1977	Tom Dees	O. C. Jenkins, Sr.
1978	Brancie Stephens	O. C. Jenkins, Sr.
1979	Brancie Stephens	O. C. Jenkins, Sr.
1980	Brancie Stephens	Ruth Reel
1981	Brancie Stephens	Ruth Reel
1982	Brancie Stephens	Ruth Reel
1983	Hughet Godwin, interim	Ruth Reel
1984	Lewis Howard	Ruth Reel
1985	Lewis Howard	Ruth Reel
1986	Lewis Howard	Ruth Reel
1987	Lewis Howard	Ruth Reel
1988	Lewis Howard	Ruth Reel
1990	C. C. Baker, interim	Ruth Reel
1991	Earl Brooks	Ruth Reel
1992	Earl Brooks	Ruth Reel
1993	Earl Brooks	Ruth Reel
1994	Earl Brooks	Ruth Reel
1995	C. C. Baker, interim	Ruth Reel
1996	Billy Stines	Ruth Reel
1997	Billy Stines	Ruth Reel

YEAR	TREASURER	CHAIRMAN OF DEACONS
1933	L. T. Shelley	
1934	L. T. Shelley	
1935	N/A	
1936	N/A	
1937	N/A	
1938	N/A	
1939	N/A	
1940	N/A	
1941	N/A	
1942	N/A	
1943	N/A	
1944	Gordon Hammond	
1945	Gordon Hammond	
1946	Gordon Hammond	
1947	Keiver Meares	
1948	Keiver Meares	
1949	Keiver Meares	
1950	K. L. Meares	Jesse Hammond
1951	K. L. Meares	E. M. Barnes
1952	K. L. Meares	N/A
1953	K. L. Meares	French Nobles
1954	Fred Hammond	French Nobles
1955	Fred Hammond	E. M. Barnes
1956	Fred Hammond	E. M. Barnes
1957	Fred Hammond	French Nobles
1958	Fred Hammond	French Nobles
1959	Fred Hammond	French Nobles
1960	Fred Hammond	E. M. Barnes
1961	L. V. Reel	N/A
1962	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	O. C. Jenkins
1963	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	E. M. Barnes
1964	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	E. M. Barnes

YEAR	TREASURER	CHAIRMAN OF DEACONS
1965	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	E. M. Barnes
1966	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Jack Edmonds
1967	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Jack Edmonds
1968	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	N/A
1969	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	E. M. Barnes
1970	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	N/A
1971	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Jack Edmonds
1972	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	N/A
1973	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	E. M. Barnes
1974	K. L. Meares	Jack Edmonds
1975	K. L. Meares	N/A
1976	K. L. Meares	N/A
1977	K. L. Meares	N/A
1978	K. L. Meares	N/A
1979	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Cornie Shelley
1980	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Graham Ellis
1981	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Graham Ellis
1982	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Francis Floyd
1983	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Francis Floyd
1984	James Jenkins	Graham Ellis
1985	James Jenkins	Graham Ellis
1986	James Jenkins	Ira Campbell
1987	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Graham Ellis
1988	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Graham Ellis
1989	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Graham Ellis
1990	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Francis Floyd
1991	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Francis Floyd
1992	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Francis Floyd
1993	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Cornie Shelley
1994	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Cornie Shelley
1995	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Cornie Shelley
1996	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Francis Floyd



YEAR	TREASURER	CHAIRMAN OF DEACONS
1997	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Francis Floyd

YEAR	SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR	TRAINING UNION DIRECTOR
1917	G. J. Hammond	
1918	G. J. Hammond	
1919	G. J. Hammond	
1920	G. J. Hammond	
1921	Jesse Hammond	
1922	L. C. Barnes	
1923	Charlie Floyd	
1924	Charlie Floyd	
1925	Charlie Floyd	
1926	Charlie Floyd	
1927	Charlie Floyd	
1928	Jesse Hammond	
1929	Charlie Floyd	
1930	Charlie Floyd	
1931	Bill Caulder	
1932	Bill Caudler	
1933	Jesse Hinson	
1934	Jesse Hinson	
1935	Jesse Hinson	
1936	Jesse Hinson	
1937	Jasper Hinson	
1938	Bill Caulder	
1939	Bill Caulder	
1940	N/A	
1941	D. D. Williams	

YEAR	SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR	TRAINING UNION DIRECTOR
1942	French Nobles	
1943	French Nobles	
1944	French Nobles	French Nobles
1945	French Nobles	N/A
1946	French Nobles	French Nobles
1947	French Nobles	French Strickland
1948	N/A	N/A
1949	J. C. Edmonds	French Nobles
1950	Clauson Edmonds	French Nobles
1951	Clauson Edmonds	Gordon Hammond
1952	J. C. Edmonds	Wilton Ellis
1953	French Nobles	Harold D. Hinson
1954	E. M. Barnes	Gordon Hammond
1955	E. M. Barnes	Gordon Hammond
1956	K. L. Meares	Gordon Hammond
1957	E. M. Barnes	Emory Lovett
1958	E. M. Barnes	Gordon Hammond
1959	E. M. Barnes	French Nobles
1960	K. L. Meares	Francis Floyd
1961	K. L. Meares	Francis Floyd
1962	K. L. Meares	Ruyland Dudney
1963	K. L. Meares	Ruyland Dudney
1964	K. L. Meares	Wilton Ellis
1965	E. M. Barnes	Francis Floyd
1966	E. M. Barnes	J. D. Jenkins
1967	Jack Edmond	J. D. Jenkins
1968	Jack Edmonds	N/A
1969	French Nobles	J. D. Jenkins
1970	Jack Edmonds	Harold Cribb
1971	Jack Edmonds	Hubert Jenkins
1972	Graham Ellis	K. L. Meares
1973	Graham Ellis	Hubert Jenkins

YEAR	SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR	DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING DIRECTOR
1974	Graham Ellis	Cornie Shelley
1975	Cornie Shelley	Wilton Ellis
1976	Cornie Shelley	Wilton Ellis
1977	Cornie Shelley	Kent Dudney
1978	Graham Ellis	Victoria Hinson
1979	Graham Ellis	Wilton Ellis
1980	Cornie Shelley	Francis Floyd
1981	Francis Floyd	Charles Spaw
1982	Francis Floyd	Charles Spaw
1983	Francis Floyd	Charles Spaw
1984	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Francis Floyd
1985	Francis Floyd	Cornie Shelley
1986	Roger Hammond	Graham Ellis
1987	Roger Hammond	Norlie Meares
1988	Cornie Shelley	Norlie Meares
1989	Roger Hammond	Norlie Meares
1990	Charles Spaw	Norlie Meares
1991	Graham Ellis	Norlie Meares
1992	Graham Ellis	Norlie Meares
1993	Graham Ellis	Earl Redwine
1994	Graham Ellis	Earl Redwine
1995	Dane Hammond	Earl Redwine
1996	Earl Redwine	Chuck Spaw
1997	Earl Redwine	Chuck Spaw

YEAR	BROTHERHOOD	W.M.U.
1944		Mamie Hinson
1945		Eula Hinson
1946		Mamie Hinson
1947		Lea Floyd
1948		N/A
1949		Luola Meares
1950		Victoria Hinson
1951		Victoria Hinson
1952		Victoria Hinson
1953		Victoria Hinson
1954		Victoria Hinson
1955		Luola Meares
1956		Nettie Barnes
1957	French Nobles	Nettie Barnes
1958	French Nobles	Mamie Hinson
1959	E. M. Barnes	Mamie Hinson
1960	E. M. Barnes	Mamie Hinson
1961	O. C. Jenkins	Mamie Hinson
1962	Gordon Hammond	Mamie Hinson
1963	Cornie Shelley	Victoria Hinson
1964	Cornie Shelley	Mamie Hinson
1965	Jack Edmonds	Victoria Hinson
1966	Jack Edmonds	Mamie Hinson
1967	Graham Ellis	Mamie Hinson
1968	N/A	Mamie Hinson
1969	Graham Ellis	Mamie Hinson
1970	Gordon Hammond	Mamie Hinson
1971	Gordon Hammond	Fannie Lou Cribb
1972	N/A	Inez Hammond
1973	Hubert Jenkins	Rosalee Jenkins
1974	Russell Meares	Rosalee Jenkins
1975	Russell Meares	Esselle Hammond
1976	Gordon Hammond	Esselle Hammond

YEAR	BROTHERHOOD	W.M.U.
1977	N/A	Esselle Hammond
1978	N/A	Cynthia Jenkins
1979	Cornie Shelley	Cynthia Miller
1980	Jack Strickland	Esselle Hammond
1981	Charles Spaw	Esselle Hammond
1982	Graham Ellis	Inez Hammond
1983	James Jenkins	Inez Hammond
1984	Carlton Brown	Inez Hammond
1985	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Inez Hammond
1986	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Inez Hammond
1987	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Inez Hammond
1988	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Inez Hammond
1989	Tony Todd	Inez Hammond
1990	N/A	Inez Hammond
1991	N/A	Inez Hammond
1992	N/A	Inez Hammond
1993	Cornie Shelley	Marilyn Brooks
1994	N/A	Inez Hammond
1995	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Inez Hammond
1996	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Inez Hammond
1997	O. C. Jenkins, Jr.	Inez Hammond

YEAR	ROYAL AMBASSADORS
1958	Fred Hammond
1959	Francis Floyd
1960	Francis Floyd
1961	E. M. Barnes
1962	Fred Hammond
1963	Francis Floyd
1964	Wilton Ellis
1965	Francis Floyd

YEAR	CHOIR / MUSIC DIRECTOR	ORGANIST / PIANIST
1944	Jesse Hammond	
1945	Jesse Hammond	
1946	Jesse Hammond	Ellen Barnes
1947	Jesse Hammond	Ellen Barnes
1948	N/A	N/A
1949	Mrs. R. C. Melton	Dorothy Fay Hinson
1950	Mrs. R. C. Melton	Dorothy Fay Hinson
1951	N/A	Nettie Ruth Edmonds
1952	N/A	Linda Meares
1953	Luola Meares	Linda Meares
1954	Luola Meares	Linda Meares
1955	Luola Meares	Linda Meares
1956	Luola Meares	Linda Meares
1957	Robert Watson	Alice Shelley
1958	Robert Watson	Alice Shelley
1959	Dorcas Hammond	Alice Shelley
1960	Dorcas Hammond	Linda Meares
1961	Dorcas Hammond	Dorcas Hammond
1962	Dorcas Hammond	Dorcas Hammond
1963	Dorcas Hammond	Dorcas Hammond
1964	Elinor Edmonds	Dorcas Hammond
1965	Elinor Edmonds	Dorcas Hammond
1966	Elinor Edmonds	Dorcas Hammond
1967	Elinor Edmonds	Dorcas Hammond
1968	Elinor Edmonds	Suzanne Edmonds
1969	Lizzie Hinson	Dorcas Hammond
1970	Mrs. George White	Dorcas Hammond
1971	Devine Meares	Jack Edmonds, Jr.
1972	Devine Meares	Jack Edmonds, Jr.
1973	Helen Hammond	Jack Edmonds, Jr.
1974	Helen Hammond / Devine Meares	Jack Edmonds, Jr.



YEAR	CHOIR / MUSIC DIRECTOR	ORGANIST / PIANIST
1975	Graham Ellis	Jack Edmonds, Jr.
1976	Graham Ellis	N/A
1977	Graham Ellis	N/A
1978	Graham Ellis	Alice Brown
1979	Graham Ellis	Alice Brown
1980	Graham Ellis	Alice Brown / Dorcas Hammond
1981	Graham Ellis	Dorcas Hammond
1982	Graham Ellis	Dorcas Hammond
1983	Graham Ellis	Dorcas Hammond
1984	Graham Ellis	Dorcas Hammond
1985	Graham Ellis	Dorcas Hammond / Mrs. Earl Brown
1986	Graham Ellis	Dorcas Hammond / Mrs Richard Miller
1987	Graham Ellis	Dorcas Hammond / Anita Meares
1988	Graham Ellis	Dorcas Hammond / Anita Meares
1989	Graham Ellis	Dorcas Hammond / Alice Brown
1990	Graham Ellis	Dorcas Hammond / Anita Meares
1991	Graham Ellis	Dorcas Hammond / Anita Meares
1992	Graham Ellis	Dorcas Hammond / Anita Meares
1993	Graham Ellis	Dorcas Hammond / Anita Meares
1994	Graham Ellis	Dorcas Hammond / Anita Meares

YEAR	CHOIR / MUSIC DIRECTOR	ORGANIST / PIANIST
1995	Graham Ellis	Dorcas Hammond / Chuck Strickland
1996	Graham Ellis	Dorcas Hammond / Chuck Strickland
1997	Graham Ellis	Dorcas Hammond / Chuck Strickland

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## *P*raise the LORD!

Praise the name of the LORD;  
praise HIM, O servants of the LORD,  
You who stand in the house of the LORD,  
in the courts of the house of our God!  
Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good;  
sing praises to His name, for it is lovely.

The name, O LORD, is everlasting,  
Thy remembrance, O LORD,  
throughout all generations.



PSALM 135: 1-3, 13, NASB